

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Socialist Workers turn to opportunities in the unions

— PAGES 8-9

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'Join actions to free Puerto Rican political prisoners'

BY JACK WILLEY

CHICAGO — A series of demonstrations November 7-21 will demand the release of Puerto Rican independence fighters locked up in U.S. prisons and calling for Puerto Rican independence. "These actions are building for a December 10 rally at the United Nations and other events in cities around the country," stated Marcos Vilar, national coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners. "December 10 marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, in which Spain illegally ceded colonial domination of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines to the United States," he continued. "We invite all those who support the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners to join these demonstrations."

The actions are part of an upturn in the campaign to free the prisoners, reinforced by a resurgence of nationalist sentiment in Puerto Rico over the past year. In July, more than half a million workers took part in a general strike opposing the sell-off of the state-owned Puerto Rican Telephone Co. to a U.S.-based consortium. On July 25, tens of thousands demonstrated in Guánica, Puerto Rico, as well as in New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., demanding Puerto Rico's independence and the release

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Court rejects appeal of frame-up of Abu-Jamal

BY PETE SEIDMAN

PHILADELPHIA — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejected the post-conviction appeal of death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal October 29. Gov. Thomas Ridge is expected to sign a new death warrant shortly. State law requires a death date be set within 60 days after that. If a warrant is issued, Mumia will be stripped of his legal materials and possessions and denied visitors.

In a statement, Mumia Abu-Jamal blasted the ruling. "Even after this legal legerdemain [sleight of hand] I remain innocent. A court cannot make an innocent man guilty. Any ruling founded on injustice is not justice. The righteous fight for life, liberty, and for justice can only continue."

The court's ruling sparked immediate protests, from San Francisco to New York and Minneapolis. It marks a turning point in this case, which has been a focal point of death penalty opponents since Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and prominent Black journalist, was framed-up and convicted in 1982 for the shooting death of Philadelphia policeman Daniel Faulkner a year earlier.

About 500 people marched through midtown Manhattan October 31 to denounce the court ruling against Abu-Jamal and protest any move toward his execution. In addition to longtime supporters of his fight for justice, young people who had never taken part in such an action before joined the demonstration. Five young women from Eu-

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Illinois coal strikers win labor solidarity

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

FARMERSVILLE, Illinois — The 350 members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Locals 12, 1969, and 2488 have entered the third month of their determined strike against Freeman United Coal Mining Co. The strike began on September 11 at 12:01 a.m., after the company refused to back down on contract proposals that would gut health benefits for retired miners.

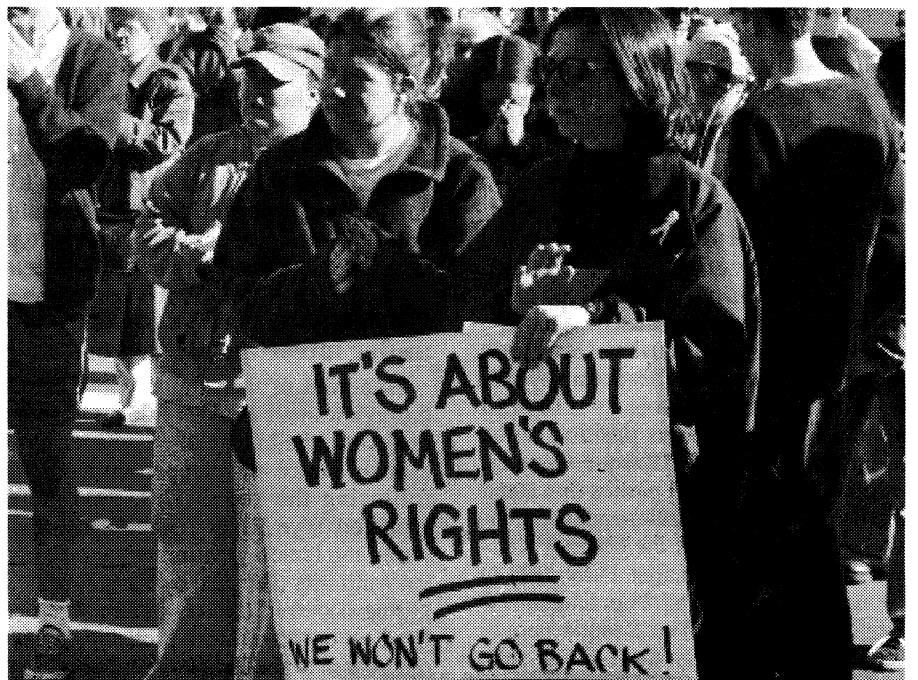
During a recent visit to the picket line, strikers from UMWA Local 12 at Crown No. 3 exchanged experiences with Jim Spaul, a rail worker from Britain who was a member of the National Union of Mineworkers during the fight against mine closures there in the 1980s. UMWA members told Spaul that after the Freeman mines opened in 1981, they shut down Crown No. 3 in 1982 for three years. In 1987 they closed it again. After the union agreed to concessions, the company reopened Crown 3 in 1991.

Ron Grabow, a member of UMWA Local 12, said, "In 1991 numerous top jobs were contracted out. We have done nothing but give since the mine started, and it has got to be stopped somewhere."

Mike Delost, a laid-off member of UMWA Local 1148, was also at the picket line that

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Protesters defend a woman's right to choose abortion



Militant/Tony Lane

500 rally in Buffalo, New York, October 31, protesting murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian.

BY KEVIN DWIRE

BUFFALO, New York — One week after the shooting of Dr. Barnett Slepian in nearby Amherst, 500 people gathered at Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo October 31 to protest his murder and defend a woman's right to choose abortion.

A banner behind the speakers platform said "End the Silence — Stop the Violence. Defend Our Right to Choose." Speakers at the rally represented a broad range of pro-choice and women's rights groups across western New York state.

Cathy McGuire, of Buffalo United for Choice and the Pro Choice Network of Western New York, pointed out that "without medical professionals, access

[to clinics] is pointless." Currently, doctors from other areas are being flown in to make sure that appointments can be kept at the clinics. There are only three doctors in the Buffalo area who now perform abortions.

Marilyn Buckham, who has worked for 25 years to provide abortion services at a clinic in Buffalo, said, "The authorities have looked the other way at the pushing and shoving, turned a deaf ear to the screaming outside the doors of the clinics. They are chipping away at *Roe vs. Wade*," the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that codified the right to choose abortion. "This cannot continue. Doctors

Continued on Page 12

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For more information, call the Young Socialists national office (213) 387-3033, or the numbers listed on page 12.

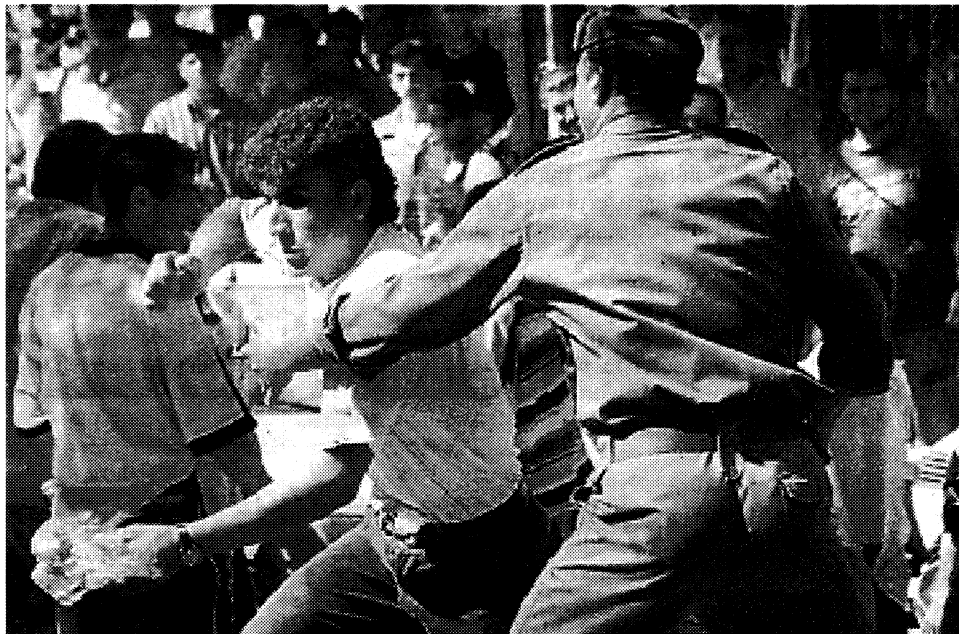
U.S. elections: shift to left in bourgeois politics — page 14

Kosova: U.S. 'observers' doubled

Washington sent 70 more "civilian observers" to Kosova October 30 to monitor the pullout of thousands of Yugoslavian government troops from the region. They are hired under a private contract and are former military specialists and diplomatic officials. Of the 230 "observers" of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that will be in Kosova once the new batch arrives, 130 are from the United States. The Kosovo Diplomatic Observers Mission, as it is called, was agreed to by Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic under the threat of NATO air strikes. Professing concern over attacks on the Albanian majority in Kosova, Washington pushed through the monitoring agreement in order to seize a more dominant role in the region and to lay the ground for eventually trying to restore capitalism in Yugoslavia. The U.S.-dominated NATO alliance is now preparing an "extraction force" designed to go into the Kosovar region ostensibly to save "observers" if a conflict arises. Meanwhile, a 30,000-strong NATO force remains in Bosnia with no sign of being disbanded.

Independence fighters make gains in Basque elections

The October 25 elections to the regional elections in the Basque Country, or Euskal Herria, in the Spanish state registered gains for the revolutionary nationalist organization Herri Batasuna (HB). Euskal Herritarok (EH), an election coalition headed up by HB, increased its share of the vote from 16 to 18 percent. HB maintained its position as the third-largest party in the Basque Country. The combined vote of all parties that stand in the name of Basque independence constituted 55 percent, with the bourgeois nationalist Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and Basque Unity scoring 28 percent and 9 percent, respectively. The Basque people "have said yes to liberty, to peace, to self-determination, and to the Lizarraga agreement," said EH leader Arnaldo Otegi. The Lizarraga agreement was the political precursor to the early September cease-fire announcement by the armed Basque nationalist organization, ETA. The PNV continues to head up the local government coalition.



Palestinian cop tries to stop a protester from throwing a gasoline bomb at Israeli troops in West Bank October 1. New "peace" accord has not eased tensions.

Among the forces openly opposed to Basque independence Partido Popular, the governing party in Madrid scored 20 percent of the vote, up from 14 percent in 1994, and the vote for Left Unity, the Communist Party-led electoral coalition fell to 5.6 percent. The Socialist Party held 17 percent.

Palestinians resist crackdown under latest 'peace' accord

Hundreds of Palestinian youth marched through Ramallah, West Bank, October 26, protesting the killing of a teenager by Palestinian police and stepped-up harassment following the recent U.S. government-brokered Wye River "peace" accords between the Israeli government and Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Yasir Arafat. The killing occurred the day before when cops fired on demonstrators protesting a weapons search at the headquarters of Al Fatah, one of the main wings of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Wye River agreement calls for the PA to confiscate "illegal" weapons and bust up groups allegedly planning attacks on Tel Aviv. They will be monitored by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The Zionist regime still has not ap-

proved the accord. Palestinian Authority cops arrested 100 alleged members of Hamas October 30, under pressure from Tel Aviv to crack down on the Palestinian organization. Hamas opposes the accords. The previous day, Palestinian security forces placed Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the religious leader of Hamas, under house arrest. The arrests followed a suicide car bombing in Gaza Strip, for which Hamas reportedly claimed responsibility. "People are arrested without any warrants and without any rules," Professor Adam Awarta, who was at the October 26 protest, told reporters.

Hitachi of Japan: record losses

The Japanese electronics conglomerate Hitachi, one of the strongest companies in the Fuyo group, reported its first half-year loss since 1949. The electronics giant lost \$1.4 billion the first half of 1998, compared to about \$3 million in profit the previous year. Hitachi warns that losses could double by the end of the fiscal year. The capitalist economic crisis, which shattered currencies throughout underdeveloped nations in Asia and affected imperialist nations, has impacted Hitachi. Exports to Southeast Asia fell 18 percent, while the region's U.S. exports fell 26 percent. Depression conditions in Japan have also lowered electronics demand there. Citing this loss, Hitachi refused to pump money into Fuji Bank — a major force in the Fuyo group. Fuji is looking for about \$2 billion in capital to stay afloat. "We don't have that sort of money. If we did, we would want it for ourselves," said Yoshiaki Yagi, Hitachi senior executive officer.

Indonesians reject racist remark

Thousands of people in Bali, Indonesia, poured into the streets October 30 to call for Food Minister A.M. Saefuddin's resignation after he was quoted in the local media as saying opposition politician Megawati

Sukarnoputri should not be president because she is Hindu. Two days prior, at least 100,000 demonstrated, according to the Associated Press. The protests included Muslims and Christians in addition to Hindus. Saefuddin was pressured to issue an apology, claiming he had no intention on insulting any religion.

HIV hits epidemic level in Africa

According to a World Health Organization report, up to a quarter of the population in the underdeveloped nations of sub-Saharan Africa are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. In Botswana, the hardest-hit sub-Saharan country, life expectancy dropped from 61 years old to 47 in the last five years. It is expected to sink to 41 within six years. Of the 30 million people affected with HIV worldwide, 26 million — or 86 percent — live in sub-Saharan Africa. HIV, which outside the body is very frail and therefore hard to transmit, is able to spread so rapidly because of the overall lack of health care available to most workers and peasants in the region. A *New York Times* article from October 28 stated, "Despite the enormity of the problems affecting Africa, attention seems to have shifted from the disease, largely because it seems to have been contained in the advanced industrialized nations."

Colombia: strikers win raise

After waging the longest strike in Colombian history, some 700,000 public sector workers won a 15 percent wage increase October 28, according to the *Financial Times*. That raise is in parity with projected inflation levels for 1999. Earlier, the government proposed a 14 percent increase; and workers were demanding 18 percent. Officials also promised not to take action against strikers who blocked entrances to public buildings during the strike after the labor stoppage was declared illegal October 9.

Women's health clinics get chemical weapons threats

Four women's health clinics that perform abortions in Indianapolis, New Albany, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; and Knoxville, Tennessee, received envelopes in the mail containing brown powder and a note claiming it was anthrax. Though in two of the cases the powder was tested and came up anthrax negative, personnel who came in contact with the substance were taken to the hospital and treated with antibiotics for precautionary measures. These incidents occur just one week after the assassination of Barnett Slepian, a doctor in Buffalo, New York, who provided abortions. That killing sparked protests of outrage in cities around the United States and Canada. Also, on October 30 a fake bomb was delivered to the same abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, that was bombed January 30, injuring a nurse and killing a cop.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

THE MILITANT

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Fight to free Puerto Rican political prisoners

Continued from front page

of the prisoners.

The 16 Puerto Rican fighters incarcerated in U.S. prisons today, serving sentences ranging from 15 to 105 years, are a courageous symbol of the unbroken battle for Puerto Rican independence.

Between 1980 and 1983, U.S. police arrested 16 *independentistas* and accused them of being members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), an alleged group the U.S. government claimed had carried out bombings of government, business, and military sites. In an effort to smear the 16 supporters of independence as "terrorists," most were charged and convicted of seditious conspiracy against the government of the United States.

One of those arrested, Alfredo Méndez, became the main state's witness against the *independentistas* and was granted presidential clemency. Fourteen of the *independentistas* refused to testify at their trials, stating they were being held as prisoners of war by Puerto Rico's colonial master and that the U.S. courts had no right to try them. None of them ever admitted being in the FALN. Lacking evidence, the government portrayed their refusal to testify as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

One of the original 16 arrested, José Rodríguez, was released. The other 14 — Haydée Beltrán, Edwin Cortés, Elizam Escobar, Ricardo Jiménez, Oscar López, Adolfo Matos, Dylcia Pagán, Alberto Rodríguez, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Luis Rosa, Alejandrina Torres, Carlos Alberto Torres, and Carmen Valentín — remain in prison today, serving federal sentences of 35 to 105 years.

The political prisoners' democratic rights were trampled by the cops and courts. During their pretrial hearings, Luis Rosa and Alicia Rodríguez were brutalized by the police. Rosa was kicked and punched by U.S. marshals in the courtroom at the opening of his hearing because he shouted "Viva Puerto Rico libre!" (Long live free Puerto Rico). He was then sentenced to six months in jail for contempt of court. After the cop attack, in an attempt to paint the defendants and their supporters as violent, the judge ordered that all spectators be barred from entering the courtroom for the proceedings.

The same judge ordered that Rodríguez be gagged during her hearing. Deputies stuffed handkerchiefs in her mouth and taped it shut. Her attorney objected and was arrested for contempt of court and fined \$1,000.



Thousands demand independence for Puerto Rico and freedom for political prisoners at a demonstration in Washington, D.C., July 25.

All of those arrested were denied bail and held in jail before their trials.

Hartford 15

The two other Puerto Rican political prisoners in U.S. jails today, Antonio Camacho Negrón and Juan Segarra Palmer, were convicted during the frame-up trials of the "Hartford 15."

The Hartford 15 case began on Aug. 30, 1985, when an army of 200 FBI agents invaded the homes of independence fighters in Puerto Rico, arresting them on charges of conspiracy to commit a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, and to use the money to buy Christmas toys for Puerto Rican children. They were accused of being members of Los Macheteros, a pro-independence group that Washington claims is "terrorist."

The FBI conducted massive electronic surveillance against the *independentistas* for more than a year before the arrests, which is forbidden by the constitution of Puerto Rico. This included 1,500 hours of taped conversations with wiretaps on home phones and public telephones in the activists' neighborhoods. Fifty of these tapes were thrown out as evidence because of demonstrated FBI tampering.

Cops moved into the house next door to two of the defendants, Luz Berríos Berríos

and Segarra Palmer, to gain access to their home, and also questioned their children. According to information revealed by the FBI around the time of the trials, more than 60,000 people in Puerto Rico were on an FBI "subversives" list.

After their arrests, the 15 were flown out of Puerto Rico to Hartford. They were forced to stand trial before an English-speaking jury, though most of the "evidence" was in Spanish. Defense motions to move the trial to Puerto Rico were all denied.

Falsely labeled "terrorists" by the U.S. government, most of the Hartford defendants were refused bail and held in jail for over a year. Juan Segarra Palmer was kept in pretrial imprisonment for more than two and half years, and Filiberto Ojeda Ríos for 32 months in jail awaiting trial.

Portraying the activists as dangerous, the judge ruled that the identities of the jurors be kept secret. Special metal detectors were set up outside the courtroom and all who entered were searched.

On June 15, 1989, four of the Hartford 15 were sentenced to prison. Antonio Camacho Negrón and Juan Segarra Palmer, the ones who remain in prison today, were sentenced to 15 years and 65 years (later reduced to 55 years) respectively. Two others, Roberto José Maldonado Rivera and Norman Ramírez Talavera each received five years. A fifth *independentista*, Luz Berríos Berríos had earlier plea-bargained, saying she could not get a fair trial in the United States, and was sentenced to five years.

Segarra Palmer was convicted of conspiracy to plan and carry out the 1983 Wells Fargo robbery. The judge based his extremely harsh sentence not only on this conviction, but on other government accusations that were never brought to court.

Victor Gerena, who the government accused of carrying out the Wells Fargo robbery, was never captured.

Abuse and frame-ups in prison

The political prisoners have faced unrelenting abuse and frame-ups in prison in an attempt by the U.S. government to break their resolve. While held in administrative detention awaiting trial, Alejandrina Torres was brutalized by guards at Chicago's Metro-

politan Correctional Center. After a visit by her daughter, a male lieutenant threw her to the floor, breaking her collar bone, and participated in a body cavity search with four women guards. After the search, the warden put Torres in solitary confinement for being "insolent."

In 1986, Oscar López Rivera was falsely accused of "conspiracy to escape" and was thrown into solitary confinement, where he remained for 12 years. Two other *independentistas* were framed-up and convicted of charges related to the "conspiracy to escape," receiving three- and four-year additional prison sentences. In solitary confinement, López Rivera was locked in a tiny cell 22 hours a day and could only see family and other visitors through a plate-glass window. He was released into the general prison population earlier this year under pressure from an international protest campaign.

These political frame-ups are among the U.S. rulers' ongoing attempts to stamp out the Puerto Rican fight for independence.

These have included:

- The imposition of U.S. citizenship on Puerto Ricans in 1917, in order to draft them into the U.S. army in World War I.
- The installation 21 U.S. military bases in Puerto Rico.
- The 1979 assassination two young *independentistas* by police at Cerro Maravilla after an undercover agent set them up.
- The assassination of labor leader Juan Rafael Caballero in 1977. A former member of the intelligence division of the Puerto Rican Police was arrested in 1994 for kidnapping, torturing, and killing Caballero.
- The arrest last year of José Solís Jordan in Chicago, who faces trial on the frame-up charges of "conspiracy" in a 1992 bombing of a military recruitment center. The indictment is based solely on the testimony of a government informant. Solís faces trial next year.

The National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners, and ProLIBERTAD, both based in the United States; Campaña Pro Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico (Human Rights Campaign of Puerto Rico), based on the island; and other organizations are campaigning for the unconditional release of 15 of the political prisoners. Haydée Beltrán is organizing her own effort for parole separately from the campaign on behalf of the 15.

At the center of their efforts is an international campaign launched in 1993, demanding that President William Clinton concede unconditional amnesty. More than 100,000 people across Puerto Rico, the United States, and internationally have signed petitions demanding their release. The campaign has a long list of endorsers, including elected senators from the pro-statehood, Commonwealth, and independence parties in Puerto Rico; U.S. congressmen; the Puerto Rican Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO); Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa; and Amnesty International. Organizers of the campaign expect a ruling on the petition for amnesty this year.

For more information about the upcoming actions demanding the release of the political prisoners and for Puerto Rican independence, call the numbers listed in the announcement below or e-mail to: prpowpp@aol.com

Free all Puerto Rican political prisoners!

Join the human rights caravan to a prison near you

November 7

USP Lewisburg, Lewisburg, PA
For more information, call (215) 227-7111
Ex18. In Philadelphia (215) 736-3280 or (215) 631-2051. Buses will leave Philadelphia at 8:00 a.m. from Centro Pedro Claver 3565 N 7th St. (7th & Venango)

November 8

USP Dublin, Pleasanton, CA
For more information, call Gloria Alonzo at (415) 824-7950; or Kahlil Jacobs-Fanlauzzi at (510) 841-9684.

November 14

Chicago, IL
Protest at Chicago Federal Building
Dearborn and Jackson 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
For more information call Marcos Vilar or Lin Velázquez at (773) 278-0885.

November 14

USP Lompoc, Lompoc, CA
For more information, call Gloria Alonso at (415) 824-7950, or Kahlil Jacobs-Fanlauzzi at (510) 841-9684.

November 14

MOC Miami, Miami, FL
For information call: Irving Forestier (407) 323-7638.

November 20

Houston, TX
Houston Federal Building
For more information, call Corrie Soblett-Berrios at (512) 477-3606.

November 21

USP Danbury, Danbury, CT
For place and time of departure in New York City call Ana López (212) 427-3874 or Eduardo Sánchez at (212) 348-6325. In Upstate New York, call Rubén Ayala of The Woodcrest-Bruderhof Community at (914) 658-8351.

November 21

USP Leavenworth, Leavenworth, KS
For more information, call Marcos Vilar or Lin Velázquez (773) 278-0855. In Kansas, call the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee Gina (785) 842-5774.

November 21

Orlando, FL
Orlando Federal Court Building
For more information, call: Irving Forestier (407) 323-7638.

• Demonstrations will also take place at Minneapolis, Madison, and Milwaukee Federal Buildings. For more information call Emanuel Ortiz at (612) 623-0842.

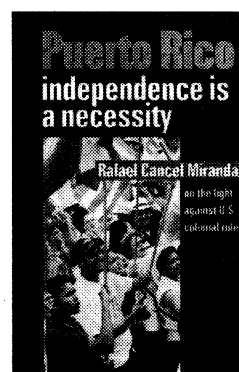
NEW! from Pathfinder

Puerto Rico: independence is a necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda on the fight against U.S. colonial rule

In two interviews, a leader of Puerto Rico's independence struggle speaks on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the resurgence of the independence movement, the campaign to free 16 Puerto Rican political prisoners, and the example of Cuba's socialist revolution for all those fighting for freedom. Rafael Cancel Miranda addresses, above all, the new generation joining this struggle. Available in English and Spanish. \$3.00

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Big effort needed to meet New International fund

BY BROCK SATTER
AND JONERWAY

NEWARK, New Jersey — "We're going to make our goal and go over," reports Joshua Carroll, co-director of the New International fund in Chicago. "We got off to a slow start," Carroll admits, "but pledges have just gone over the \$7,500 mark we took as a goal, and we're confident we're going to make it." A rally Sunday November 8 caps several weeks of stepped-up efforts by supporters of the Marxist magazine in the Midwest.

Chicago's situation — a look at the chart tells you how much work supporters there have ahead of them — is similar to the task supporters in many cities around the world face. To make the international goal of raising \$115,000 in full and on time by November 15, nearly \$33,000 must be collected in each of the next two weeks. That's a tall order; following through on it requires serious attention from all supporters of the fund.

This week's collection of \$14,133 tops any previous week, but we are still far short of where we need to be.

To meet the challenge of raising the final \$65,082, supporters of the fund are gearing up with rallies, seeking out new pledges among the growing layer of class-struggle-minded workers, farmers, and youth that are attracted to the ideas of *New International*, and working to increase the pledges that have already been made.

In Birmingham, Tom Leonard, a veteran of struggles in the maritime union, will share the platform at a New International Fund

meeting with Ronald Martin, a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 108, and Jamila Reese, a member of the local Young Socialists.

In Boston, fund director Greg McCartan reports that supporters continue to receive contributions from mailing sent out to past contributors to fund-raising efforts. A total of 11 contributions have come in so far from the mailing, bringing in more than \$400 dollars. "We have been able to get contributions from 32 people," McCartan says, "and we are approaching 24 others who have contributed in the past."

In Pittsburgh, \$800 was raised last week. Twenty people attended a fund rally featuring Sam Manuel, organizer of the Socialist Workers Party's committee on work with farmers, and Olympia Newton, organizer of the D.C. Young Socialists. Two young people came from the coalfields in Carbondale, Illinois, after learning about the event the day before. Another young person came and brought a friend who had first learned of the communist movement through a Socialist Workers election campaign table at the plant gate of USX Clairton, a coke works plant.

A total of \$1,400 was collected at a rally in Cleveland where Leonard spoke on the topic "Labor Resistance and Working-Class Politics." Two students — including one from Oberlin College who made a contribution — were among the 21 people who attended the event. Steve Warshell, fund director in Cleveland, reports they have been talking to fighters and supporters who haven't made

a pledge yet, and to others about raising their pledges.

In Washington, D.C., fund supporter Mary Martin reports that in the course of discussing how her union could fight to defend a worker from a firing, her co-worker, a ramp worker at United at Dulles airport and a member of Machinists Local 1759, gave her a \$5 contribution to the fund and said he would send another check in the mail.

In Miami, rail worker Kay Sedam explained that \$15 had been raised so far on the job through a raffle for the fund. Among the popular prizes being raffled are T-shirts taking up the struggle of Black farmers. Sedam reports that her union, United Transportation Union Local 1138, had voted to help finance a tour of Black farmers to discuss their case against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for discrimination. The tour will take place some time in January.

Over \$850 was collected at a New International Fund celebration held in Detroit November 1. More than 20 attended the event. One of those attending was a student from nearby Windsor, Ontario, who had just recently bought his first subscription to the socialist newsweekly the *Militant*.

"So far," reports Detroit fund director Frank Gorton, "31 people have contributed, in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$500."

\$115,000 New International Fund Drive

CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	%
New Zealand			
Auckland	1,500	1,132	75%
Christchurch	550	337	61%
N.Z. Total	2,050	1,469	72%
United Kingdom			
Manchester	664	570	86%
London	1,660	803	48%
UK Total	2,324	1,373	59%
Australia Total			
	650	306	47%
United States			
Detroit*	5,000	4,315	86%
Des Moines	2,500	1,777	71%
Pittsburgh	4,000	2,520	63%
Atlanta	2,800	1,686	60%
Newark	8,500	4,668	55%
Philadelphia	4,000	2,180	55%
Miami	2,500	1,340	54%
San Francisco	11,000	5,310	48%
Boston	4,700	2,111	45%
New York	12,000	5,142	43%
Seattle	8,500	2,910	34%
Cleveland	4,000	1,352	34%
Los Angeles	9,000	2,995	33%
Washington, D.C.	4,000	1,250	31%
Twin Cities, MN	7,000	2,130	30%
Birmingham	3,000	835	28%
Chicago	7,500	1,995	27%
Houston	6,000	850	14%
Other	0	885	0%
US Total	106,000	46,251	44%
Canada			
Vancouver	665	348	52%
Montreal	665	229	34%
Toronto	1,670	0	0%
Canada Total	3,000	577	19%
Iceland Total			
	1,400	0	0%
Sweden Total			
	1,250	0	0%
INT'L TOTAL:	116,674	49,976	43%
SHOULD BE:	115,000	86,251	75%
*Raised goal			

Stanley Lipman: life supporter of SWP

BY ELLENBERMAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Stanley Lipman, a former member and lifelong supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died in Santa Cruz, California, on November 1 after a lengthy illness. He was 85 years old.

Born in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1913, Stanley was the son of Jewish immigrants. He lived in Lynn for most of his life. A graduate of Lynn Classical High School, he spent just one year in college at Boston University, leaving because his family ran out of money.

Like many other youth in that period, Stanley's experience during the depression of the 1930s drove him to look for political answers to the stark conditions facing workers. Along with a group of friends and several family members, he joined the Trotskyist movement in 1937. During this period, the Workers Party, the predecessor to the Socialist Workers Party was in the process of entering into the Norman Thomas-led Socialist Party.

The left wing of the Socialist Party was attracting large numbers of young people who were looking for a revolutionary program. James P. Cannon and the other leaders of the Workers Party wanted to recruit

these youth, workers, trade unionists, and unemployed fighters to communism as part of building a revolutionary party. While in the Socialist Party, Lipman helped organize the Food Workers Union.

In 1938, led by Cannon, many workers and revolutionary-minded youth were expelled from the Socialist Party and formed the Socialist Workers Party. Lipman was one of the founding members of the SWP.

With the party's turn to industry in 1939, as part of preparing for the imminent war, Stanley got a job in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Navy Yard where he worked as a sheet metal mechanic and coppersmith until 1945. After moving back to Lynn, he worked as a plumber and was a member of the Plumber's Local 12 until his retirement in 1972.

Lipman was active in a number of campaigns during his years in the Socialist Workers Party. One of the earliest was the American Committee for European Workers Relief in the 1940s, a group that raised funds to send support to antifascist fighters during World War II. Many of these fighters were members of the Fourth International, who were refused assistance by other relief organizations because of their political views.

Stanley left the party during the McCarthy period, remaining a sympathizer during that time. He rejoined the Boston branch in 1961 shortly after the Cuban revolution and became active in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He also participated in the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants in the 1960s. This committee was formed to oppose the police frame-up of Robert F. Williams, a leader of the NAACP in Monroe, North Carolina, who organized self-defense in the Black community against Ku Klux Klan activity in their neighborhood.

Most of Stanley's political life was in the Boston and Lynn branches of the SWP, except for a brief period during 1973-74 in the San Diego branch.

In the 1970s, Stanley participated in the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition (WONAC) and in the struggle for school desegregation in Boston. He helped found the North Shore Committee to End the War in Vietnam Now and participated in many antiwar organizations in Boston, including National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) and attended many antiwar marches in Boston and New York.

Bringing a young carpenter and electrician with him from the Boston area, Stanley joined a team of comrades and supporters for one of the first restructuring projects at the Pathfinder Building, where Pathfinder books and the *Militant* are published.

Stanley was married to Mary Lipman, who remains an at-large member of the Socialist Workers Party in Santa Cruz. They had three children, Carol, Steven, and Beth. In 1980, he retired from active party life, remaining a party sympathizer.

Lipman read Pathfinder literature voraciously over the years. Family members said just two weeks before his death, he was reading *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, and urging his grandson's companion to read the book as well.

Contributions honoring Stanley's life and work can be sent to Pathfinder Press to help produce the books he so valued. Send to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

YS builds nat'l convention

Continued from front page

Washington D.C. chapter, reports that the YS "will intensify its weekly, consistent presence on area campuses: already we do weekly literature tables at George Washington University and American University. We plan on doing consistent sales at University of Maryland and Howard University," which is mainly Black in composition.

The YS is organizing a meeting about the Young Socialists at Howard University. Recently, the Socialist Workers candidate for the House of Representatives, Mary Martin, was invited to speak at a class there. In addition, the Washington D.C. chapter is organizing a Thanksgiving dinner to raise money for travel expenses.

Many YS members have participated in protests against the killing of Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, New York, and the murder of gay student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. This included a demonstration of 5,000 people in New York on October 19 following the killing of Shepard.

Elena Tate, from Boston reports that "one YS contact called the Pathfinder bookstore after the murder of the doctor to find out

what kind of action was being organized to protest. This person took the initiative to make flyers to post on her campus at Boston University and brought five students to a demonstration."

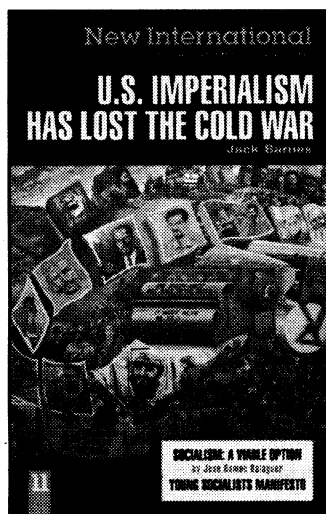
The YS in Des Moines, Iowa, organized a speak-out at Drake campus on Thursday October 29 to protest these killings.

"Young Socialists members at the University of California at Santa Cruz [UCSC] have pushed their goals for the YS convention to the front of their activities" reports Jacob Perasso, UCSC chapter organizer.

"All four YS members are planning ahead by carefully calculating the funds needed for expenses and preparing for the time commitments that the convention will demand. The chapter has decided to raise all the needed travel expenses and an additional \$300 for the overall costs of the convention," Perasso added.

The "YS Manifesto" and "YS Organizer" in issue no. 11 of *New International* are the initial basis for the preconvention discussion. Studying and using that issue of the Marxist magazine in the coming weeks will help politically prepare the gathering.

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Why fighting workers and farmers need the 'Militant'

"One thing I like about the *Militant* is that I get information from around the world that I don't get on ABC, CBS, or NBC. I'm able to get a different point of view from that of the capitalists. Without the *Militant*, I didn't know that it was Fidel Castro's internationalist fighters in Africa that helped to free Nelson Mandela. The *Militant* addresses issues for working-class people — the injustices done to labor and the strikes and boycotts that fight back. No working-class household should be without the *Militant*."

Eddie Slaughter

Vice President of Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Assoc.
Buena Vista, Georgia



Eddie Slaughter speaks at Black farmers' rally in Atlanta, Georgia, in July.

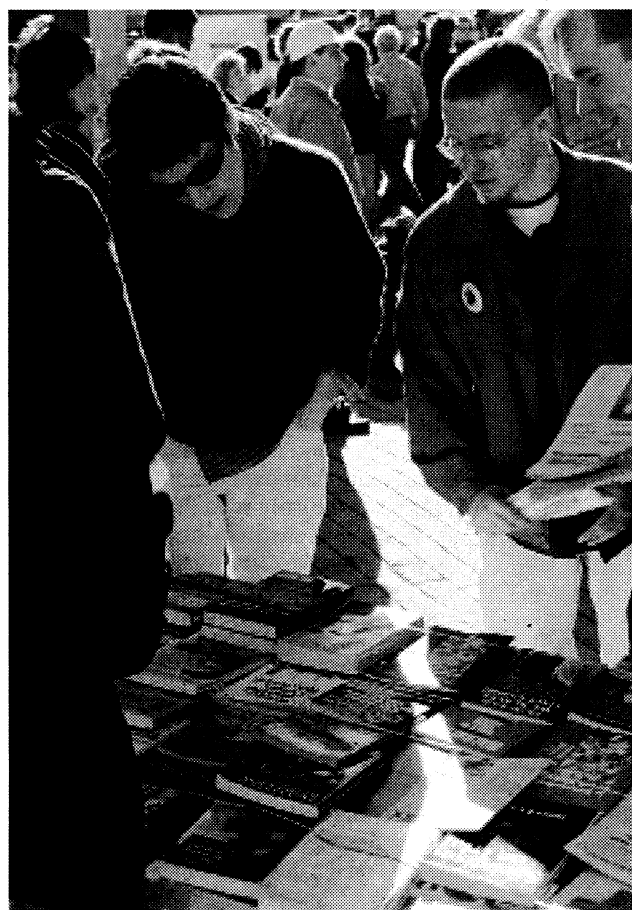
'We are fighting to go over our *Militant* subscription goals'

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

"The campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* now has momentum in the Los Angeles area," said Carole Lesnick. "We are fighting to make and go over our goals and have come within reach of this. We only have 15 more *Militant* subs to sell along with eight copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Our *PM* goal remains a challenge, but we have mapped out a fighting plan to get us there."

Lesnick explained that socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists in Los Angeles began their final press to make the drive on October 31, sending sales teams door to door in the Black community. "We sold subscriptions and built the upcoming YS convention."

Another sales team went to the University of California in



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Selling the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder literature at October 31 rally in Buffalo, New York, to defend a woman's right to choose abortion and protest the rightist killing of gynecologist Barnett Slepian.

Santa Barbara where Rafael Cancel Miranda, a leader of the independence struggle in Puerto Rico, spoke. That team sold eight *Militant* subscriptions, two *PM* subscriptions, and two copies of *New International*. Other campus teams came back with three or four subscriptions each as well.

"We are meeting many young people who are interested in the YS and their convention, which is being held here in Los Angeles December 4-6. We are organizing dinners and parties to have more discussions with the young people we have met."

An all-out effort is needed to make the goals in the remaining days of the campaign to win new readers to the socialist press, which ends November 8. Success will be measured not only in meeting the goals on time, but also in the numbers of fighting workers and farmers who have become new readers during the course of their political activity. Organizing special all-day teams on campuses, selling in working-class neighborhoods, and going back to co-workers who have bought copies of the *Militant* and *PM* are key to successfully wrapping up the circulation drive.

"We want our next *Militant* bundle sent overnight to make sure we have enough papers for the last weekend of the sub drive," wrote Dick Geyer from Birmingham. "We are expecting our biggest turnout of the campaign. Today we went back to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and sold six *Militant* subscriptions and \$100 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. We are also organizing a two-day team to the coalfields where we hope to get more miners to subscribe to the *Militant*."

Some new subscribers have sent in checks after meeting activists on regional sales teams who visited their area several weeks ago. One student from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, sent a check for an introductory subscription to the socialist newsweekly after talking to supporters from Cleveland, Ohio. "We went there just last week on our way to the picket line of Steelworkers on strike against RMI Titanium in Niles, Ohio," said Mike Fitzsimmons from Cleveland.

Other regional teams included trips to packinghouses in the Midwest, textile plants and Black farmers in South Carolina, and coalfields in other countries as well as in the United States.

"We are planning to make more regular trips to the Hunter Valley coalfield several hours north of Sydney," wrote one supporter from Australia. Miners are continuing to resist the coal bosses' offensive against their jobs, working conditions and the union. "Our sales team, which included a supporter from New Zealand, sold five copies of the *Militant* at an afternoon shift change at the Hunter Valley no. 1 mine last Friday. Several of the miners recognized the *Militant* from our picketline visits there last year."

Miners are discussing how to take action against the sacking of union delegates and activists with a recent lay off at the mine. The mine owners, Rio Tinto, used new laws that allow them to ignore seniority to lay off more than 100 miners. The company is also facing resistance to its push for longer shifts at the nearby Howick mine.



BY KATY LEROUGETEL

TORONTO — This past weekend we participated in several activities, including a Toronto rally to protest the killing of Dr. Barnett Slepian, a Canadian Labour Congress Symposium on Bargaining for Equality, a conference attended by 50 people on Jamaican deportees at York University, and set up a literature table in the Parkdale community where one of the 138 schools slated for closure in the Toronto area is located. We also called back a number of people who had purchased copies of the *Militant* earlier to see if they may want to subscribe after reading it.

We were swamped at the Jamaican deportees conference at the lunch break, where we sold two copies of *New International* and \$100 worth of Pathfinder titles.

A striker from Abitibi Consolidated in Newfoundland bought a subscription to the *Militant* at the Labour Congress Symposium. We paid a visit to a member of the Steelworkers union who we met at a march in Ottawa against the provincial government's cutbacks two weeks ago. In addition to buying a *PM* subscription, he also purchased two Pathfinder pamphlets: *On the Jewish Question* and *Why Working People Should Support Quebec Independence*.

We set up a table at the Reference Library downtown where a lot of young people study and sold a *Militant* subscription to a student who had bought other copies before at our street tables. We also received a subscription in the mail from a Cuba solidarity activist who lives outside Toronto.

Our recipe for success involves various activities like fighting to get back to those who have left us their names (they are often very busy people and hard to reach). We also try to actively participate in conferences and other political meetings. Several of the new subscribers and others interested in the socialist press came into contact with us at these events because we brought news of struggles that we were building solidarity for as union activists.

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

September 12 – November 8

MILITANT/PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL/NEW INT'L

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden	16	14	88%	8	13	25	26
New Zealand							
Auckland	28	26	93%	1	1	25	22
Christchurch	18	11	61%	1	0	15	14
N.Z. total	46	37	80%	2	1	40	36
United States							
Atlanta*	35	34	97%	12	11	40	35
Philadelphia	35	30	86%	8	5	30	26
Newark, NJ	120	96	80%	40	30	100	97
New York*	140	110	79%	60	54	140	135
Seattle	70	55	79%	20	12	70	46
Washington, D.C.*	45	35	78%	20	18	45	46
Miami	40	31	78%	20	8	40	37
Houston	35	27	77%	10	3	43	22
Des Moines*	45	33	73%	25	17	35	38
Birmingham, AL	50	34	68%	6	5	40	24
Boston	35	23	66%	20	11	35	33
Chicago	65	41	63%	25	19	58	61
Pittsburgh	40	25	63%	6	7	45	22
Los Angeles	90	54	60%	45	19	70	62
Detroit	45	25	56%	10	7	40	41
Cleveland	35	18	51%	10	4	30	24
Twin Cities, MN	65	33	51%	10	5	45	45
San Francisco*	95	44	46%	38	26	90	83
Santa Cruz	10	4	40%	5	0		
U.S. total	1085	752	69%	385	261	996	877
United Kingdom							
London*	40	28	70%	10	10	73	68
Manchester	24	15	63%	2	5	35	31
UK total	64	43	67%	12	15	108	99
Canada							
Vancouver	40	28	70%	5	1	40	45
Toronto	40	28	70%	5	5	50	56
Montreal	25	12	48%	10	8	40	23
Canada total	105	68	65%	20	14	130	124
Australia	16	7	44%	3	2	18	12
Iceland	8	3	38%	1	0	4	4
France*	5	1	20%	3	3	31	26
Int'l totals	1345	925	71%	434	309	1352	1204
Goal/Should be	1300	1138	88%	400	350	1300	1138
*raised goal							

IN THE UNIONS

Country/Union	Militant		%	PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold		Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
United States							
UFCW	10	8	80%	13	8	11	7
UAW	40	28	70%	5	2	20	18
IAM	65	38	58%	15	5	25	16
UTU	45	20	44%	3	1	40	19
USWA	31	12	39%			13	4
OCAW	24	6	25%	4	0	12	1
UNITE	5	1	20%	7	7	5	0
U.S. total	220	113	51%	47	23	126	65
Canada							
CAW	5	3	60%		1	6	3
USWA	5	3	60%		1	6	1
IAM	8	2	25%	2	0	9	1
Canada total	18	8	44%	2	2	21	5
New Zealand							
EU	4	3	75%			2	0
MWU	1	0	0%			1	0
SFWU	2	0	0%				
N.Z. total	7	3	43%			3	0
Australia							
AMWU	3	1	33%			4	0
TCFU							
Australia total	3	1	33%			4	0
United Kingdom							
TGWU	5	2	40%			3	4
AEEU	4	1	25%			5	0
RMT	5	1	20%			5	4
UK total	14	4	29			13	8
Sweden							
METAL	1	0	0%	1	0	1	0

AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU — Amalgamated Manufacturers Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers Union; EU — Engineers Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMIWA — United Mine Workers of America; UNITE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

Helene Millington: a veteran antiracist fighter and socialist for over 20 years

BY JOHNSARGE

DETROIT — Helene Millington, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for more than two decades, died here October 21 while hospitalized for heart surgery. She was 86 years old and had been a member of the communist movement since 1975.

Helene was born in Hammond, Indiana, where her father worked at the Lever Brothers Soap Co.

Helene moved to Detroit in 1932 and spent most of her adult life in this area. She explained once that she was drawn here by the desire to escape the isolation and unpromising future offered to working people in small towns and rural areas like Hammond at the height of the depression. She enthusiastically solidarized with the labor battles out of which the industrial unions grew.

Like many women of her generation, Millington spent much of her adult life raising a family. She married and had four children, three daughters and a son.

Fighter against racism and segregation

With the rise of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s, Helene was again drawn into political life, initially with activists who organized themselves through their churches. She supported the fight against Jim Crow segregation. As she took part in the civil rights movement, she became acquainted with many of the fighters in that movement.

One of her friends was civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo. Millington planned to go to Mississippi in 1965 to take part in civil rights protests there, but became ill and had to cancel her plans. Helene agreed to watch Liuzzo's children so that Liuzzo could make the trip south. Liuzzo, who was white, was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama following a march of 25,000 people from Selma to Montgomery demanding voting rights for Blacks.

Helene became active in the movement against the war in Vietnam, and joined in support of the struggle of farm workers in California to build a union, the United Farm Workers. She was a regular participant in the grape boycott activities that took on a mass character in Detroit, a heavily union town.

Helene was later involved in a number of new struggles that erupted in the 1970s against racism and for Black rights. She took part in protests against cop brutality, includ-



Above, 1974 march for school desegregation in Boston. A rally there the next year was one of first struggles where Helene met members of the SWP. At right, Helene (front right) and other supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign head out to petition to put the socialist candidates on the ballot, Detroit, 1978.

ing the fight against a Detroit police operation known as STRESS — an acronym the police use for the unit they named Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets — that targeted the Black community.

Millington also got involved in the fight to defend desegregation of the Boston schools. In 1974, as the result of a court suit won by the NAACP on behalf of Blacks demanding their right to an equal education, court-ordered busing of Black students to previously all white schools began. Racists mobilized to attack the school buses carrying Black youths entering South Boston. In May of 1975, Helene made the 11-hour bus trip to Boston, along with other activists from the Detroit area, in order to participate in a demonstration called by the NAACP and others to defend school desegregation. She was 62 years old.

That same year, 1975, Helene met the Socialist Workers Party. A party member she



met on the bus trip to Boston showed her the *Militant* newspaper and struck up a conversation.

Through her life experiences Helene had concluded that all the particular acts of injustice she fought against were not really individual acts but a product of the capitalist system, and that it was that system that she needed to fight against. She was looking for an organization that could explain what had to be done to replace the system of dog-eat-dog competition with one based on human solidarity. In the pages of the *Militant* and in working with the cadre of the Socialist Workers Party, Helene found the answers she was searching for.

Not long after returning from the demonstration in Boston Helene became a regular attendee at the Militant Labor Forum. That summer she also attended a socialist summer school sponsored by the Detroit branch of the Socialist Workers Party. She became a member of the party not long afterwards.

Tireless promoter of the 'Militant'

She embraced the *Militant* as her newspaper, and she campaigned with a passion to win new readers to the paper. She was a stalwart of circulation drives, for many years the top subscription salesperson in Detroit and regularly one of the highest subscription sellers in the country. Millington was tireless. She would go door-to-door in working-class communities, make many trips to college campuses in the city, or climb in a car and head out into the region, wherever other members of the party were going to introduce the paper to young people or workers in struggle.

She developed a systematic approach to the neighborhood around her home, dividing it in small sections and going out door-to-door on her own to win new readers. Looking over the subscription list at the end of a subscription campaign, Helene's neighborhood would often have the highest subscription concentration in the city.

While distributing the paper or campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates, other *Militant* supporters would often meet workers and young people who had bought copies from Millington. They would remark

how much they appreciated the time Helene had taken to explain what the paper was all about.

The year Helene joined the movement, 1975, marked the beginning of an orientation by the Socialist Workers Party to new opportunities to do political work in the working class.

In this period one of the actions taken by the party to take advantage of these opportunities was to reorganize what were large city wide branches of the Socialist Workers Party and divide them up into smaller community branches to extend the party's reach. Helene was part of the process and became a member of the Northwest Detroit branch. She spearheaded the branch's effort to establish a presence at Herman Gardens, a sprawling public housing project, bringing residents to the Pathfinder Bookstore on Wyoming Ave. and to Militant Labor Forums held there.

As the capitalist class more directly turned their fire on the industrial working class and its basic form of organization, the unions, as workers responded to defend themselves, and as the worldwide crisis of the capitalist system became more apparent, the party made a turn to get the big majority of its members into the industrial unions. In Detroit, that meant building party fractions in the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers Union, and other unions.

Helene was 65. She had no industrial experience and could not become an active industrial union member, but that did not stop her from pitching in. She carried out regular sales of the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at the big auto assembly plants and later at meatpacking plants in the area.

Once Millington joined the communist movement, she was

committed to the revolutionary perspective, and held it through good times and bad. She was inspired by the triumph of the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions in 1979, and visited Cuba in 1980. That experience marked her political work for the rest of her life. She was a tireless supporter of the Cuban revolution, constantly pointing to the ability of the Cuban workers and peasants to take their destiny into their own hands and explaining that this is the only road for the U.S. working class. But she didn't hide from the setbacks. When the Grenadian revolution was overthrown by a Stalinist clique in 1983, laying the basis for a U.S. invasion, Helene reached out to explain the real lesson of that defeat.

As part of her approach to building the revolutionary movement she spent many hours trying to win youth to the communist movement. Besides the hours discussing politics, she actively socialized with young people around the movement, often being the first on the dance floor and the last off at parties.

As her health worsened Millington was forced to shift her political activity. This coincided with steps the Detroit branch was taking to improve the local Pathfinder Bookstore, which included expanding the hours the store was open. Helene became a mainstay of that effort, taking regular shifts in the store, working to improve its appearance, and spending hours discussing politics and the world with visitors to the store. But she never let age or other considerations stand in her way when fights broke out. From defending abortion clinics in face of harassment to workers struggles, Helene was there. When 2,500 newspaper workers struck the *Detroit News* and *Free Press* in 1995, she joined their picket lines in all kinds of weather.

Helene was an active builder of the party even after worsening health forced her to retire from day-to-day participation in the Socialist Workers Party. She never stopped fighting to expand the influence of the movement, even among others in the retirement community where she lived. As recently as August she brought one of her neighbors to a Militant Labor Forum.

Washington renews saber-rattling against Iraq

BY MEGANARNEY

Washington has stepped up its military maneuvers against the Iraqi people, renewing threats to carry out missile strikes against that country.

The Iraqi government suspended all dealings with the United Nations Special Commission October 31, which includes the so-called UN inspections teams and monitors

imposed following the U.S.-led slaughter of some 150,000 Iraqis in the Gulf War in 1991. Baghdad cut off relations in protest of a UN Security Council decision that even if it proclaimed the Iraqi government to be in compliance with UN weapons resolutions, the economic sanctions strangling the country might not be lifted.

Washington responded by threatening Baghdad with military strikes. Attempting to shore up support for their threats, U.S. defense secretary William Cohen traveled to the Mideast to meet with government officials in the region.

Pentagon officials made a point of announcing November 3 that Washington had enough military power in the Persian-Arab Gulf to launch a strike on Iraq without using its bases in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government, which allowed that country to be the military base for U.S. troops during the 1990-91 Gulf War, has said it will not permit the country to be a "springboard" for further attacks on Iraq.

Currently, the U.S. military arsenal includes more than 200 warplanes; an aircraft carrier, 23,000 troops, and seven Navy ships carry 250-300 Tomahawk cruise missiles with 1,000-mile range. That's more missiles than were used during the Gulf War.

The Iraqi government has repeatedly denounced the United Nations of working on behalf of the U.S. government in prolonging the sanctions placed on that country in 1990 leading up to the massive bombing of the Iraqi people.

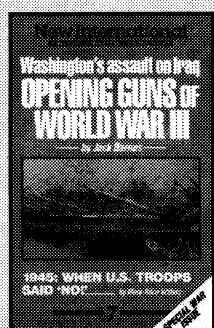
Opening Guns of World War III Washington's Assault on Iraq

JACK BARNES

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces,

growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. In *New Internationalist* no. 7. Also includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters. \$12.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12 or write Pathfinder.



Hundreds protest court rejection of Abu-Jamal's appeal

Continued from front page

rope who are working as au pairs in Connecticut, in New York for an evening away from tending children, were among the passersby who decided to join in the march. Several other protest actions took place over the next couple of days. Eighty people rallied in Minneapolis November 1, including relatives of a young man who was beaten to death by the city police October 12. Organizers of the protest announced plans for another march and rally November 14.

The International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFF) is urging all supporters to attend a rally on Saturday, November 7 at 12 noon at the Pennsylvania State Office Building at Spring Garden Street and Broad Street in Philadelphia.

Abu-Jamal's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, announced that he would soon file a *habeas corpus* appeal in Philadelphia Federal District Court. Since 1977, such appeals have resulted in federal courts overturning approximately 35 percent of all death sentences handed down by state courts — a partial indication of the flagrant violations of the rights of the disproportionately Black, Latino, and overwhelmingly working-class victims of the capitalist legal system.

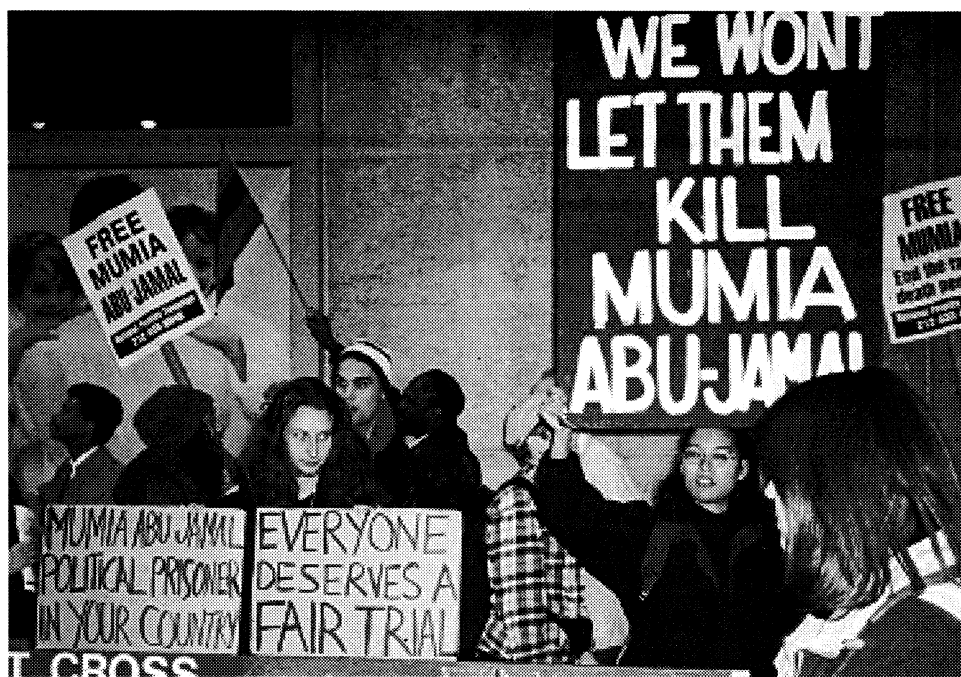
But under the 1996 "Anti-Terrorism and

Effective Death Penalty Act," rushed into law by Congress and signed by President William Clinton using the pretext of the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, severe restrictions have been placed on such appeals.

According to literature distributed by the ICFF, the effect of these new rules on Abu-Jamal's case are substantial. "They require the federal courts to assume that findings of fact by the state courts are true. In the past, the federal courts conducted a new and independent examination of the facts in the case. Now the federal courts are not supposed to reassess the evidence. They are to presume whatever the state court found to be true. This... puts the burden on the prisoner to prove he is clearly innocent, rather than the state having to prove he is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Because the Pennsylvania high court's 71-page ruling rejected out of hand all the important new evidence presented by Mumia Abu-Jamal's defense at his Post Conviction Review Appeal, under the 1996 law the Federal District Court is not supposed to look into any of those revelations.

At Abu-Jamal's 1995 hearing, several prosecution witnesses said they had lied at the original trial under pressure from the



Militant/Jessie Ludlow

More than 200 people rally in New York City November 2 to protest rejection of Abu-Jamal's appeal of frame-up and death sentence, one of several protests there.

cops. New evidence of police favors granted to other witnesses who testified against Abu-Jamal was presented, and the prosecution conduct by presiding Judge Albert Sabo was so blatant that afterward he was removed from the bench. Following the appeal, a scandal developed when official videos from the Philadelphia Attorney General's office became public. The training videos offered suggestions for how to exclude Blacks from juries.

The day after Judge Sabo was removed from the bench by the State Supreme Court, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* commented Nov. 26, 1997, that he had "acquired the reputa-

tion of being the king of death row. For 14 years, he presided over nothing but homicide cases, and 31 defendants left his court with death sentences. An *Inquirer* survey several years ago found no other judge in the country with as many defendants on death row."

One of the judges who presided in the State Supreme Court's ruling is Ronald Castille. He submitted a document along with the ruling explaining why he shouldn't recuse himself from it despite defense charges that he was the District Attorney of Philadelphia during the time that office was blocking efforts Abu-Jamal's to win a new trial. Castille signed all the prosecution's briefs against Abu-Jamal's earlier appeal in the State Supreme Court.

Cecelia Moriarity, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania in the November 3 elections, issued a statement condemning the Supreme Court's ruling. "Now is the time for all supporters of justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all those opposed to the death penalty to mobilize," she said. "All working people have a stake in fighting the death penalty, a weapon of terror against all of us that falls hardest on Blacks and other oppressed nationalities. We should keep up the demand a new trial."

"The Supreme Court's ruling comes at a time when there is growing revulsion against the systematic police violence, corruption, frame-ups, and cover-ups. The opportunity to mobilize all working people, who are increasingly on the receiving end of trouble from the cops, not only in our neighborhoods but on our picket lines, is growing."

"And the gravity of the October 29 ruling will prompt new layers of fighters to join this struggle, as happened the last time a death warrant was signed — resulting in big street protests that forced the government to retreat from their long-term goal of executing Abu-Jamal. Now is the time to make the government pay the highest possible political price for the crimes of its cops and its courts."

Glova Scott in New York and Gaetan Whiston in Minneapolis contributed to this article.

Anti-cop brutality activist Dudley Laws wins victory over police frame-up

BY ROSALIND RAYMOND

TORONTO — A victory was won against the police frame-up of Dudley Laws, a prominent Black activist against police brutality, on September 10 when the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned a 1994 conviction of Laws on charges of smuggling immigrants across the U.S.-Canada border. In a new hearing October 14, prosecutors dropped the charges against Laws, who agreed to carry out 200 hours of community service.

Laws is a leader of the Black Action Defense Committee, which has organized many protests against police killings in Canada. He runs a consulting business that advises immigrants and refugees on citizenship and immigration matters.

Laws was arrested on Oct. 15, 1991, after a four-month undercover cop operation that included video surveillance and phone wiretaps. The operation involved 30 officers and staff of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Metropolitan Toronto Police with a budget of \$400,000. In a February 1994 jury trial, Laws was found guilty of conspiring to violate U.S. and Canadian immigration laws and sentenced to a nine-month jail term. The only evidence against Laws at the trial was

presented by four undercover cops. These cops said that Laws had "transported" them across the border after they posed as undocumented immigrants.

Laws and his supporters charged that he was the victim of an entrapment operation that was part of a police vendetta against him because of his long record of opposition to cop brutality. In 1991 the Metro Toronto Police Association sued Laws for libel after he called the Toronto cops "the most murderous in North America."

During the trial Laws' lawyers got access to spy files compiled by the Metro Toronto Police Intelligence Services in April 1989, which documented cops' surveillance operations against individuals and groups who were active in the fight against police brutality, racism, and apartheid in South Africa.

While the government and cops had secured a conviction against Laws in the trial, there continued to be widespread public support for Laws in his uncompromising stature as a Black activist opposed to police abuse. The revelations of police spying on antiracist political activities further weakened the government's case against Laws.

The Ontario Court of Appeal withdrew

the charges against Laws in September, saying he had not gotten a fair trial because the judge and prosecutors held three private meetings to discuss police wiretap evidence from which Laws and his lawyers were excluded. As part of the legal agreement to not retry the case, Laws will perform 200 hours of community service.

In a November 2 phone interview, Laws said, "The throwing out of the charges against me is a victory against racism and police entrapment." Laws described how after the court victory, "I have been stopped on the street and received many phone calls of congratulations from people saying they are happy I will be doing 200 hours of service in their community."

Laws described his long history of experiencing police harassment. "First the harassment started with parking tickets, then it moved on to speeding tickets, then they harassed members of my family, and then they moved on to criminal charges."

"I'm relieved that the seven-year legal fight is over," Laws declared, "and that I'll have more time now to be involved in fighting racism and issues that affect everyone in the community."

D.C. socialists: no to bar on marijuana for medical use

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the more controversial issues that appeared on the November 3 ballot here was Initiative 59 calling for legalizing marijuana for medical purposes if recommended to alleviate pain by a physician for illnesses such as AIDS, cancer, and glaucoma. But the results of the vote will remain secret, by decision of the Board of Elections. "My campaign called for a 'yes' vote on this initiative," stated Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C. "We are strongly opposed to governmental restrictions on medical procedures and measures that doctors believe could be useful and have not been proved to be harmful. To bar such treatment is cruel and callous."

"Opposition to the use of marijuana for medical purposes is the result of prejudice and profit," continued Manuel. "It does not follow from clearly presented facts about its alleged harmfulness. Besides, the burden of proof to show harmfulness to medical patients is on the state."

Supporters of Initiative 59 submitted more

than 17,000 petition signatures in a bid for ballot status. The Board of Elections ruled the initiative off the ballot, claiming insufficient signatures were submitted. After a court fight it was reinstated on the November ballot. Voters in Alaska, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and Washington state also voted on similar marijuana initiatives this year. California and Arizona voters approved medical marijuana referendums in 1996, but they have been blocked from implementation by federal lawsuits. The Clinton administration has come out forcefully against the measures. "Let's have none of this malarkey on marijuana smoking by cunning groups working to legalize drugs," stated Barry McCaffrey, the administration's chief anti-narcotics official and a former Army general. "American medicine is the best in the world for pain management."

In Washington, D.C., Republican congressman Robert Barr from Georgia attached an amendment to the 1999 D.C. budget bill forbidding the city to use any funds on an initiative that would "legalize or otherwise reduce penalties" for users of marijuana.

Congress passed this as part of the D.C. budget bill on October 21.

Since the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics had already prepared ballots and set up computers to count, the votes were tallied but the outcome will not be officially certified and the measure cannot become law. In the name of complying with Congress, the Board of Elections decided not to even release the results of the vote.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit October 30 seeking to prevent Congress from voiding the results of the D.C. medical marijuana initiative. ACLU officials said that this is the first time that Congress had stepped in to block results of a D.C. election.

The *Washington Post*, which opposed Initiative 59, editorialized October 24 that "this latest congressional intrusion [is] an affront to District voters." In an interview SWP mayoral candidate Manuel condemned this undemocratic stance by Congress, and also spoke about some of the broader issues involved in this dispute over drugs.

"The SWP is for decriminalizing the use

of all drugs that are now illegal. The draconian laws against use of addictive drugs, including marijuana, only leads to further victimizations and scapegoating of the user victims of the multibillionaire drug trafficking business," he noted. "At the same time my campaign has opposed any moves to legalize the drug trade." The capitalists who profit from the production and trade in addictive drugs are the real criminals, he stated.

"I applaud the approach of Cuba's revolutionary government in taking a strong stand against drug traffickers. Through building a socialist society based on human solidarity they have taken huge strides forward in eliminating the social conditions that spur massive drug addiction. The wide-scale use of addictive drugs, including crack, heroin, and marijuana, is a social scourge promoted by capitalist profiteers that needs to be confronted and resolved by a revitalized fighting workers movement, like the Cubans have been doing."

Brian Williams is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 2609.

Socialist Workers turn to labor struggles,

BY GREG McCARTAN

LOS ANGELES — Socialist workers active in six industrial unions in the United States met here and in Des Moines, Iowa, October 24–25. They charted a course of action for socialist trade unionists to participate in the defensive struggles working people are waging against the offensive by the employers throughout the United States.

Doing so means becoming an active component of what is a broader vanguard of working-class fighters, and functioning as effective revolutionary politicians in the unions. The framework of the party's efforts to reach out to militant workers and bring them in contact with each other is seeking to lay the foundations for a class-struggle left-wing in the labor movement. This is a reality socialist unionists must act on today, in addition to opportunities to recruit individual fighters to the party.

A class-struggle left wing develops in the unions, the main defensive organizations of the working class, in a period of growing resistance to the attacks on the working conditions and rights of workers. As working people look for ways to counter the street actions of rightist and fascist currents, the need to transform the unions into revolutionary instruments of struggle against the employers and their government, and for the interests of the entire working class is posed.

"Our third campaign for the turn to the industrial unions has two aspects," said Nan Bailey in a report to the meeting of members of the International Association of Machinists. "First is to rebuild all eight national union fractions" where members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists are concentrating their forces.

These are the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW); the International Association of Machinists (IAM); and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), which had meetings in Los Angeles. Meeting in Des Moines were members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA); the United Auto Workers (UAW); and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW). Rail workers who are members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) met in late September. Socialists are currently seeking jobs in coal mines organized by the United Mineworkers of America (UMWA).

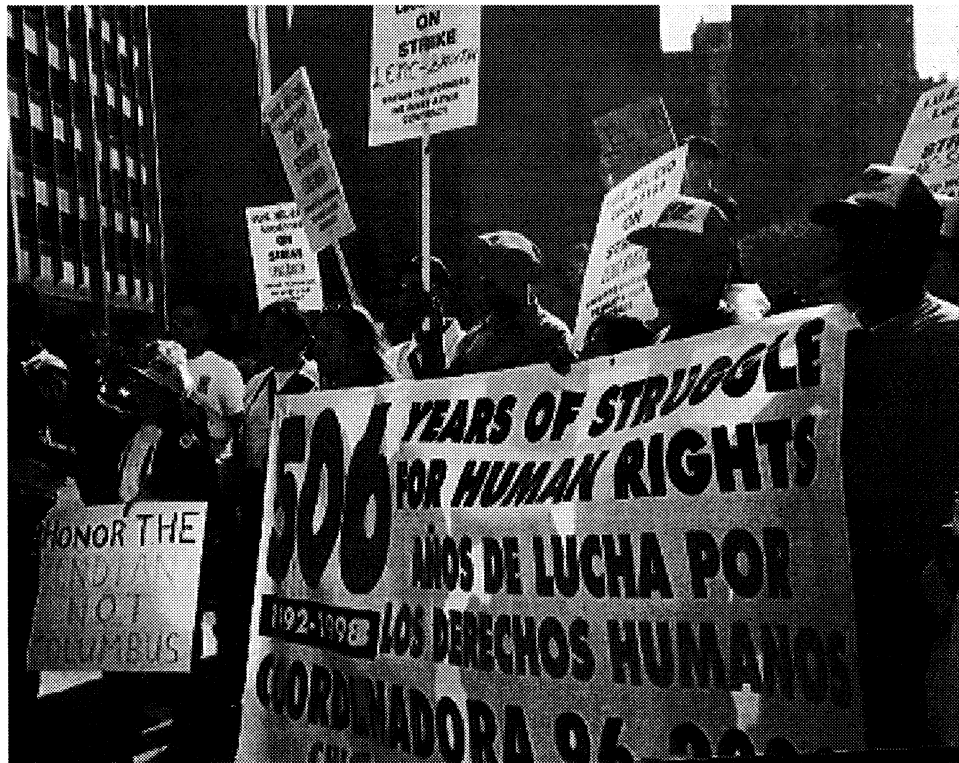
Responding to the onset of the world capitalist economic crisis and renewed openings to carry out effective communist work in the unions, the party launched its initial turn to industry as a politically centralized nationwide campaign in 1978, to get an overwhelming majority of the membership and leadership of the party into industrial unions. In 1985 the party launched the second campaign for the turn to industry, focusing on expanding the number of fractions built in each branch, and thereby extending the geographic spread of the national fractions.

To launch this third campaign, meetings of socialist workers in the UTU, followed by the party's National Committee a week later, took stock of the fact that over the past years of retreat in the labor movement the size of the party fractions in the UTU, IAM, and USWA had grown substantially. The number of Socialist Workers and Young Socialists in the UNITE, UFCW, and UMWA had been reduced to a few in several cities.

Norton Sandler, an airline worker and member of the party's Trade Union Committee, noted in a report to a joint session of the meetings in Los Angeles that this campaign to rebuild and revitalize the party fractions in the industrial unions got off to a false start in one important aspect. Instead of politically leading this effort and building hard-working, quick-response committees to find jobs where the party decides to concentrate its work, branch leadership bodies simply declared that all branch members would be immediately active in a renewed search for industrial union jobs.

Voluntary jobs committees

Sandler explained that previous campaigns to carry out and reinforce the turn to the industrial unions were voluntary, as is the current effort. Party members join the branch jobs committee as they become convinced of the changed objective situation and get some experience in the openings for communist work in the working class.



Strikers from Lenc-Smith plant join immigrant rights rally in Chicago October 12. Growing numbers of workers are looking to build solidarity with each others struggles.

To do this means that a substantial number of those currently in the three unions with the heaviest concentration of party members will get jobs and build fractions in another union workplaces such as in UNITE, UFCW, and the UMWA, building multi-fraction branches across the country.

"The second aspect of this campaign," said Bailey, "is to adopt a course of action to deepen the proletarianization of our fractions in each of these industrial unions." This includes timely responsiveness to political developments and functioning with the habits, professionalism, and standards required for the organized leadership of the working class that will contest for power against the imperialists. And it means getting back to a party in which all of its units — the local branches and industrial union fractions — carry out in a collective and centralized way the prioritized campaigns of the movement.

"We can't do one part of the third campaign for the turn without the other," Bailey said in her report. She stressed that "today there is a layer of militant workers who are drawing broader lessons about politics. This has raised the standard of leadership responsibilities for us in the labor movement and other social struggles."

"This campaign," she said, "is a precondition to opening opportunities to recruit workers and youth to the party and the Young Socialists. It's a pre-condition for the recruitment of workers in the unions who are part of these struggles today."

A joint session of the meetings were held in each city to discuss reports on branch jobs committees, along with a campaign to raise \$550,000 for a capital fund needed to purchase machinery and pay for plant improvements needed to facilitate efforts of Pathfinder's printshop, where Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* are produced.

Participants in the meetings voted to return to the tradition of party members and supporters giving any company bonuses — usually given as a sweetener for ending up with a bad contract — to the capital fund. The four workers from Great Lakes Steel in Detroit who were present decided to donate their recent bonuses, totaling well over \$1,500.

On October 24 in Los Angeles the socialist trade unionists attended a Militant Labor Forum held to celebrate publication of *New International* no. 11 and to raise funds for the \$115,000 drive now underway for the magazine. The program, entitled "U.S. Imperialism has Lost the Cold War," featured Pathfinder editor Ma'mud Shirvani. Young Socialists leader Carlos Hernández, one of the drafters of the "Young Socialist Manifesto," published in the new issue of *New International*, and Sam Manuel, a leader of Socialist Workers in the UTU and of the party's farm work, also spoke.

In Des Moines the Militant Labor Forum, "Workers and Farmers Fight the Bosses' Offensive," opened with the ideas and experiences of a panel of working-class fight-

ers. The speakers were Cecelia Moriarity, a member of the USWA and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, and Ramona Chávez, a member of the UFCW.

Chávez spoke of helping to lead her co-workers to fight for safer job conditions in the meatpacking plant where she works, and the confidence to continue the fight that meeting socialist workers on the job gave her. Earl Simes, a farmer activist, spoke from the floor about the depression conditions in agriculture farmers are confronting today and the need for leadership.

Leftward shift in bourgeois politics

At the Des Moines meeting of members of the UFCW, Tom Alter pointed to how the resistance of the working-class gets reflected in a variety of ways, including through capitalist elections. He said the recent electoral victory of the Social Democratic Party in Germany and of the selection of the leader of the former Communist Party in Italy to head up the government there are examples of a "leftward shift in bourgeois politics."

After living through seven years of a steady retreat in working-class struggles, this recent shift helps fighters to see that far from having dealt a major defeat to any layer of the working class around the world, the rulers must still maneuver to head off resistance to the conditions they try to impose on working people. "This is an opportunity for all fighters to have some space," Alter said. "They don't get vamped on if they learn to handle themselves well and meet others who can show them how to function as revolutionary politicians."

Joel Britton, a leader of the SWP's Trade Union Committee and a member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union, described how a leader of the locked out oil workers at the Crown petroleum refinery in Texas joined coal miners at a recent rally held in the southern Illinois town of Virden in support of the United Mine Workers strike against Freeman-United Coal. Unionists at Caterpillar who are fighting that company's continued union-busting drive turned out, as well as strikers against Titan Tires.

These workers came to meet with and learn from one another, and add the weight of their struggles to the miners' fight. Socialist Workers, who campaigned in their unions for support to the miners and participation in the Virden rally, played a role in bringing these fighters together at the rally.

Britton explained that experiences leading up to and during the October 11 rally in solidarity with the striking miners show what every local union fraction and branch of the party can be doing today in the class struggle and labor movement.

Alyson Kennedy, a member of OCAW at a Chicago-area corn processing plant, explained that the socialist oil and chemical workers have important political openings, particularly in responding to the Crown lock-out and the resistance by OCAW members to the continued offensive of the oil bosses against refinery workers. These and other

fighters against the oil bosses present an opportunity to reach more workers with the *Militant* newspaper, socialist books, and election material.

Workers at Crown refuse to give up their over two-year long fight against the company's union-busting lockout at the Houston-area refinery. In hopes of forcing the unionists to end their fight, the company has filed a civil lawsuit against 14 refinery workers and OCAW Local 4-227 secretary-treasurer Joe Campbell falsely accusing the workers of sabotage.

The union has been waging a "corporate campaign" against Crown, which includes a boycott of Crown products and protests at the company's main office in Baltimore, Maryland. Participants in the meeting noted that Crown workers who have been traveling across the South promoting the boycott had begun to connect up with farmers and fighters from the civil rights movement.

Polarization and workers' resistance

Participants in the meetings also discussed the sharpening polarization in politics, and the rightist "culture war," highlighted by the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay youth in Wyoming. While the socialists were meeting, a rightist assassinated Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, New York. Slepian was an outspoken supporter of a woman's right to choose abortion and worked at a clinic for working women that provided abortions among its health-care services.

Alter from Des Moines described joining protests of working farmers and running into supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, a fascist politician whose organization seeks to gain influence among farmers and others who are being dealt blows under the crisis of the world capitalist system.

The march of the imperialist system toward fascism and war was also underlined by increasing moves to deepen U.S. and NATO military intervention in Yugoslavia. In the days following the meetings of socialist workers, Washington ratcheted up its saber rattling against Iraq.

Across the South, Black farmers have intensified a years-long battle with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reverse the government's racist practices that have driven thousands of Black farmers off the land in recent years. Just prior to the socialist workers' meeting, some 600 Black farmers scored an important victory, when the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., ruled that their fight against the agriculture department could be waged in court as a class action lawsuit. The broad support and interest in the Black farmers' fight points to the increased possibility to forge a fighting alliance between workers and farmers.

"In their actions you can see a new generation of Black leaders," said Sam Manuel, a railroad worker who is part of a SWP leadership committee charged with leading its work among farmers. Manuel noted that socialist workers have an enormous opportunity and responsibility to work alongside of these farmers as they continue their fight.

The machinists union members discussed some of the specific fights being waged, especially by airline workers. For example, some 19,000 passenger service workers at United Airlines voted to join the IAM in July and USAir workers are threatening a strike.

At Northwest Airlines, following a successful strike by pilots, ramp workers, mechanics, and cleaners — working without a new contract since 1996 — IAM members still have a fight in front of them.

Along with this increase in resistance has also come an offensive against the union in the guise of a drive to convince mechanics to leave the IAM and join the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA). AMFA is a company-minded outfit that has launched efforts to decertify the IAM for a layer of workers at both United and at Northwest Airlines.

In response to the decertification attempts, IAM officials restructured the union at Northwest and created a separate division for mechanics, a move that can only weaken the workers in the IAM by dividing them up along craft lines. The answer to AMFA's union busting logic has to be greater organization for a fight by the ranks in the IAM to take on the airline bosses.

new opportunities in the trade unions

USWA strike at Titan Tire

One battleground of the resistance discussed at the meeting of steelworkers is the six-month strike by Steelworkers at Titan Tire in Des Moines, Iowa; and Natchez, Mississippi. Ray Parsons from Des Moines reviewed the work of socialist steelworkers participating in strike activity, building support among co-workers, and getting their union locals involved in the fight.

John Hawkins reported on the work of a local fraction in the Twin Cities to help bring a Titan striker to speak at a union meeting and do a plant gate collection. As a result "our co-workers look at us differently," he said. Parsons reported that a growing number of Titan strikers have subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper, including some of the "road warriors," the name given to the strikers who are hitting the road to reach out for solidarity.

Gaetan Whiston, in a political report to the meeting, said that during the retreat of the labor movement possibilities for carrying out "our propaganda work and our mass work diverge." But with the increased resistance there is an intertwined relationship between the two, because fighters who are looking for other fighters need the *Mili-*

tant. Whiston pointed to an example of timely response to a political development by socialist steelworkers in Pittsburgh. They campaigned at U.S. Steel and LTV steel plantgates the same week as a jointly organized company and union [officials] "Stand Up for Steel" rally, and used the institutions of the SWP — the election campaign, the plant gate sales teams, and the forum series — to present an alternative to the jingoist, anti-imports crusade.

Socialist steelworkers within those plants were able to follow up and deepen the discussions. Peggy Kreiner reported that her co-workers' deep distrust of a union and company partnership opened up political space to have the discussion.

Heather Wood related how she turned to her co-workers to push back problems with sexual harassment and a company effort to intimidate her. She is the only woman in the melt shop of her plant. The meeting discussed other examples of women steelworkers stepping forward, which strengthens the union and the fight for women's rights, and discussed ways to build and participate in the Women of Steel conference scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, November 17-18.

Socialist workers from Des Moines, Atlanta, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles,

Detroit, New York, and Pittsburgh participated in the UFCW meeting. Several participants noted the need to give increased attention to getting off probation and functioning on the job. Like other workers socialists need to learn skills of the job, while being alert and prepared to discuss politics with their co-workers.

Learning Spanish is another task of socialist workers, participants noted, given the large number of Latinos in the packing plants. Several workers pointed out how socialists cannot do serious politics at work and in their union without learning Spanish. They also discussed the need to relate to the increasing number of raids at meatpacking plants nationally by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and protests that have been happening against these antiunion moves around the country.

The meeting of socialists in UNITE registers some initial gains in the third campaign for the turn as well, with socialist workers present from six cities.

Gale Shangold, a UNITE member and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor of California explained how after a couple of co-workers came to an event at her campaign headquarters they organized a house meeting for her. In New York, mem-

bers of UNITE passed out a flyer that invited co-workers to meet the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, an airline worker, at their plant gate.

Socialist unionists noted that while most fights and strikes are occurring outside UNITE-organized plants at this time, they can't just wait for the struggle to come to them. Several unionists described how they were joining in support for labor struggles in several areas, from the Standard Motors strike in New York, to the Jeddo coal miners strike in eastern Pennsylvania, to rallies by airline workers at Northwest Airlines and a strike by workers at nursing homes in Massachusetts.

Another participant at the meeting described relating to a struggle and union victory at a large garment distribution center in Massachusetts. In April the 900 workers there won an organizing drive and in September ratified a three year contract that includes a \$1.60 raise over the next three years, increased holidays, sick days and improved health and pension benefits.

Bill Scheer in the USWA; Jim Altenberg in the OCAW; Ted Leonard in UNITE; and Laura Garza in the IAM contributed to this article.

Volunteers, capital needed for transformation of Pathfinder's printshop

BY STEVE CLARK

NEW YORK — This was the week the light tables were carried out of the Pathfinder Building and sold to a second-hand dealer.

This was the week the huge, 50-year-old Robertson vertical camera — the piece of equipment around which a printshop for the communist movement was rebuilt in the early 1960s — was decommissioned.

Now there is no going back. The Pathfinder printshop is fully digital. Hours-devouring labor stripping up large sheets of film is no longer physically possible. Camera work is a thing of the past.

This was also the week that a brigade of volunteers from Boston, Cleveland, Newark, New York, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Vancouver began the final electrical and other work at the Pathfinder Building to make possible delivery of the new, state-of-the-art Agfa Galileo computer-to-plate equipment on Saturday, November 21.

And it was the week that three printshop workers began their training in the operation of the Galileo at Agfa's worldwide manufacturing center near Boston. They will return equipped to begin training others in the shop over the next several weeks.

Capital Fund

The down payment on the new equipment was made possible by contributions during the last two weeks of October of \$167,450 to an international Capital Fund, aimed at keeping Pathfinder books in print for the revolutionary-minded workers and youth who need them to help guide their trade union and other political work.

These funds — which are used only for capital projects such as the computer-to-plate equipment, not to meet day-to-day operating expenses — came from contributions ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 from cadres and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, including SWP and YS members who are active in seven industrial unions. Longtime veterans of the communist movement and younger members alike are joining in this effort, contributing job bonuses from employers, as well as windfalls from trusts, bequests, and settlements.

Another \$9,000 has been raised over the past week, reports Maggie Trowe, a packinghouse worker in Des Moines, Iowa, and member of the committee organizing the fund. Other committee members are Nan Bailey of Seattle, Sam Manuel of Washington, D.C., Dave Prince of New York City, Norton Sandler of San Francisco, and Jack Willey of Chicago.

"Members of the Capital Fund committee are now traveling around the United States and Canada to appeal for funds," says Trowe, who is organizing these trips out of the

fund's "war room" in Des Moines. "We need to collect the outstanding pledges of the initial contributions, and raise \$176,000 more in November and early December to pay for the new computer-to-plate system. Soon after that, we will need \$200,000 to pay off the remaining debt on our two Heidelberg presses and Goss Community web press. Altogether, that comes to \$550,000."

Trowe reports that members of the Capital Fund committee and other socialist leaders will be giving special presentations at meetings to celebrate the recent publication of issue number 11 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* in early November in New York, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Birmingham, Seattle, Chicago, Seattle, and Toronto. "In addition, special meetings of supporters will be organized in Birmingham, Toronto, San Diego, and Washington, D.C.," Trowe says.

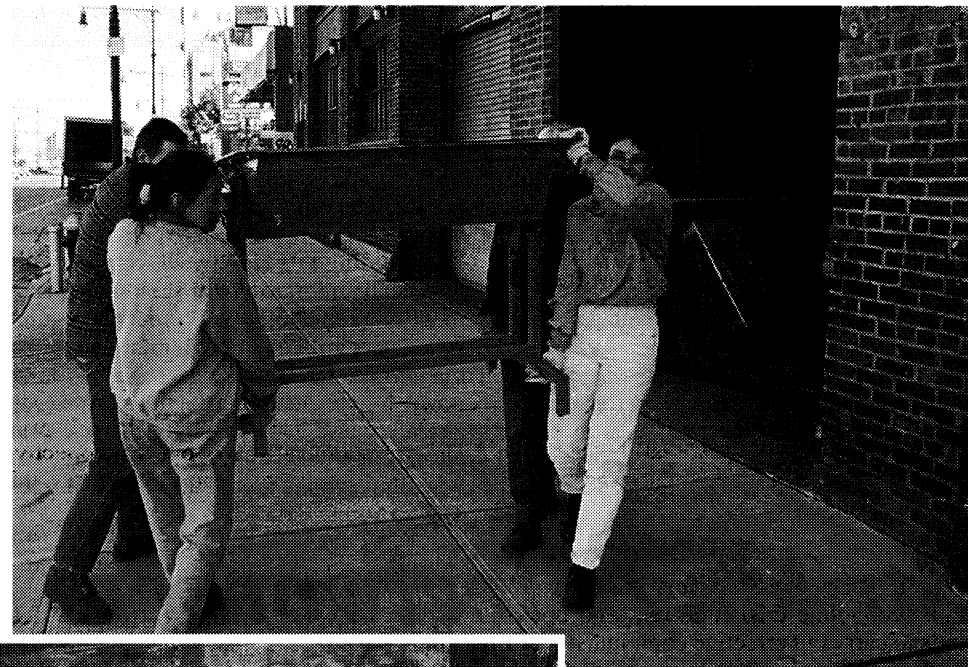
Trowe recently participated in a meeting in Chicago on November 1 at the home of two supporters "who prepared a generous spread of food for the occasion." Trowe reported on the expanding resistance by working people to the anti-labor course of the capitalists, and the political openings for communists to participate in these struggles with other workers and youth. Following her presentation, \$2,000 was pledged on the spot and ideas were raised for follow-up meetings with a number of individuals in the Chicago area.

"Supporters in every city need to organize serious, working discussions right away on who to call, not just in the metropolitan area but in the surrounding region," Trowe says.

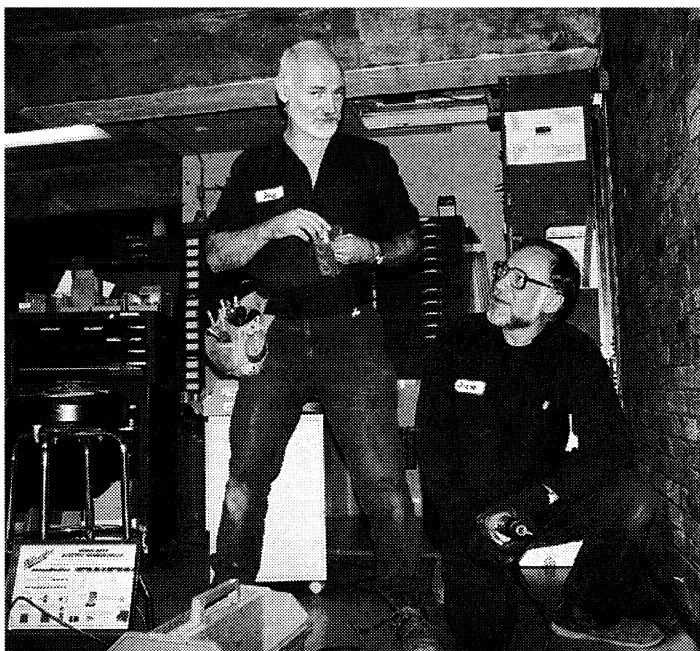
Red Weekend, Nov. 20-22

In addition to financial contributions, volunteer labor is also needed to make possible the transformation in the production of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. A Red Weekend is being organized for Friday, November 20, through Sunday, November 22, the weekend of the delivery of the Agfa Galileo platemaker.

Friday, November 20, will be a key day in this effort. A crew of 25-30 people is needed to take down walls in the shop and office areas on the first floor of the Pathfinder Building in order to permit delivery of the huge crates containing the CTP equipment. Crews of 75-80 people will be needed Saturday and Sunday to rebuild the walls and do painting and other finishing work.



Volunteers carry away light tables from Pathfinder printshop. They are no longer needed for laboriously stripping film. Meanwhile others begin electrical work on area where the light tables had been installed. Dozens of volunteers will be needed in coming weeks, especially for November 20-22 Red Weekend, when computer-to-plate equipment will be installed.



another essential aspect of this effort. They have volunteered to convert the entire Pathfinder arsenal into electronic files and to send in fully digitized books, with the formatted text, cover, and graphics on a compact disk. This work is centralized by a steering committee of the volunteers based in San Francisco.

The volunteers, who had produced one book a month in this new way since June, submitted three books and pamphlets to Pathfinder in October. These included *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, by Jack Barnes, one of the fundamental handbooks of working-class politics that guides the activity of the international communist movement. This the first title sent in full to Pathfinder on a CD-ROM, drawing together work done in cities around the world to produce the text, photo signature, and cover.

The other two October reprints were *On the Jewish Question* by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky, as well as the text of *Women and Cuban Revolution*, a collection of speeches and documents by leaders of the Cuban revolution, edited by Elizabeth Stone.

To find out how you can make a capital contribution, write to the Capital Fund Campaign, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Volunteers began signing up for the Red Weekend at the October 24-25 meetings in Des Moines and Los Angeles of the SWP and Young Socialists' joint national union fractions. And the Santa Cruz Young Socialists chapter has raised more than \$500 to fly in two of its members to participate and help out for a day or two beforehand, as well.

Pathfinder digitization project

Bringing in the computer-to-plate system is one part of a broader international effort to make it possible to produce Pathfinder books and pamphlets with a substantial reduction in labor time and materials costs. Pathfinder must reduce the size of its printshop in order to sustain its publishing program.

Some 140 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and communist leagues in other countries are directly participating in

Striking airport workers in Toronto determined to win

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Striking ground and maintenance workers at Toronto's Pearson International Airport are more determined than ever to win their strike. The 520 workers, responsible for runway and electrical systems maintenance, are members of Local 0004 of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) which represents 155,000 workers, most of whom are employed by the federal government. Since airports were privatized two years ago, airport workers now work for private corporations, but are still covered by federal laws.

Their strike against the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) began October 2. The workers have had a wage freeze for seven years. The GTAA bosses have refused their demand for parity in wages and benefits with workers in other airports across the country. Pearson is the country's busiest airport.

"We are getting support from other airport workers," said electrician's helper Tom Maharaj, at the Britannia Road picket line. "The air traffic controllers can't legally refuse to cross our picket line so they bring us donuts and coffee. They know where we're coming from since they are in contract talks and they are going to have a fight on their hands." Electrician's helpers like Maharaj earn Can\$12.70 (Can\$1 = US\$0.65) an hour.

Greg Dufour was the picket captain on the line that afternoon. He is also an electrician's helper. The picket captains and the bargaining committee are the strike leadership. Dufour like the other 30 or so picket captains have volunteered to take on this leadership responsibility. Like Maharaj, this is Dufour's first strike.

At the Britannia Road line, one of the main entrances into the airport for airport workers, the job of the pickets is to slow traffic into the airport 24 hours a day. They hold cars coming in and out for a 15-minute

period and are careful to keep accurate time limits so as not to give the GTAA an excuse to seek a court injunction against picketing. Today the line of cars waiting to get in stretches about half a kilometer. They don't let the GTAA bosses in at all, advising them to find another gate.

"We are determined and people are firm," said Dufour. "We get about 300 members on the picket lines around the airport each day." The strikers picket in four-hour shifts. Some of the lines like the one at Britannia road are round-the-clock. Strike pay is Can\$35 a day. According to Dufour the local went into the strike with about Can\$4,000.

The national PSAC is maintaining the strike financially. And several thousand dollars in donations has come in from other unions.

"We have had some problems at picket lines we have put up at the airport parking garages," said Dufour. The strikers have used this tactic which has resulted in long lines of passengers waiting to get their cars into the parking garages. "One driver went after a picket with a hammer," said Dufour. The strikers at the request of the GTAA took these lines down for a while as a condition for further negotiations. But the GTAA didn't put anything new on the table, so these roving lines are appearing at the three terminals again.

Early on in the strike, the union warned that if the strike was of any length, airport safety would be compromised by the GTAA bosses, who replaced the strikers on the job with unskilled management personnel.

According to a union press release, a pilot recently informed a management replacement worker that he had guided the pilot into a near collision with another plane on the tarmac. Terminal 1 suffered a two-hour power failure, including the fire alarms. One aircraft backed into a food service truck. And aircraft approach lights to one of the runways have gone out. The GTAA bosses

350 protest Klan in Georgia



Militant/Jill Fein

BY DAN FEIN

GAINESVILLE, Georgia — Some 350 counterdemonstrators rallied against the Ku Klux Klan here on October 31. Six robed members of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and around 15 of their supporters held a rally in front of the Hall County Courthouse here to vent their racism against immigrants and Blacks.

Gainesville has a large and growing Mexican immigrant population, many of whom work in the poultry plants located

here. The counterdemonstration was organized by the Center for Democratic Renewal, the National Youth Connection, a number of Black churches and Hosea Williams, a longtime civil rights leader in Atlanta.

A large contingent of local and state cops was organized to protect the KKK. Police barricades surrounded the area cordoned-off for the counterdemonstration. A majority of the anti-Klan protesters were young and Black. A significant number were Mexican workers.

claim the wires were cut in a locked area, implying strikers have carried out sabotage.

"The area they are referring to is not locked," said Dufour. "They haven't let the union into the area where they say the wires were cut."

The strikers have commissioned an international consulting firm to review the safety risks at the airport, and have invited the GTAA to participate in the review. The GTAA has refused. The union has asked that the consulting firm report be submitted by November 4.

"The GTAA bosses are hurting," said

Dufour. "The Canadian Labor Relations Board just ruled in favor of PSAC's charge that they are engaged in unfair labor practices by threatening the jobs of snow removal contract workers who refuse to cross our picket line." Dufour explained that the seasonal contract workers are members of the union. The CLRB ruling recognizes this and their right not to cross the line and keep their jobs following the strike.

John Steele is a member of the International Association of Machinists. Gabriel Charbin contributed to this article.

Striking Steelworkers in Niles, Ohio, demand titanium bosses pay bonuses, raise pensions

BY TONY PRINCE

NILES, Ohio — "This is my fifth strike in 33 years at RMI," said pipefitter Joe Dickson walking the picket line here. Approximately 500 members of United Steelworkers of America Locals 2155 and 2155-7 have been on strike at RMI Titanium since October 1. The company makes titanium products.

"We went out for four months in 1969, for five months in 1972, for six days in 1995, and now in 1998. Then we had a one-day wildcat strike in 1968 because the company tried to fire a guy for heating up a toasted cheese sandwich. We all got a three-day suspension for that, but it was worth it."

According to Dickson, the day before the strike RMI was taken over by a holding company called RTI. The strike was provoked by the refusal of RTI to sign the contract

that had been negotiated between RMI and the union. One of the major sources of income for the workers has been profit sharing. Striker Tom Altobelli said that the workers got \$13,000 in profit sharing in 1997 and expected a comparable amount in 1998.

With the transfer of ownership to the RTI holding company, RTI and RMI are in a position to juggle the finances in such a way as to make it appear that RMI is not making money while RTI rakes in a big profit, which it is not obliged to share with the RMI workers. Dickson gave the example of RMI having sold titanium to another RTI company for \$6 per pound, which the second company then sells on the open market for \$18 per pound. This makes it look like RMI is barely making a profit.

It was in order to prevent this kind of manipulation and to guarantee the continu-

ation of profit sharing that the union demanded that RTI sign the contract.

Pensions are another issue in the strike. Dickson said that a person with 30 years seniority would be entitled to a pension of \$860 per month, and Altobelli added that a retiree has to pay \$150 per month for family medical insurance out of the pension payment. This pension is significantly less than that at other major unionized factories in the area.

It was clear to strikers on the picket line that the company had been preparing for a strike long before the contract deadline. They pointed to where the company had cut down trees in order to have a clear view of the picket line and the street, removed all the gravel that used to be at the entrance to the plant, and installed new fencing, video cameras, and high-powered lighting aimed at the picket lines.

The company brought in a group of uniformed thugs at the beginning of the strike to try to intimidate the workers, and from the outset these thugs tried to provoke a confrontation with the workers. This tactic backfired, as more workers mobilized at the gates than the company had expected. The imported thugs have been forced to retreat into the company buildings away from the picket lines, and the regular, pre-strike, security service is again staffing the guard shack at the entrances to the plant. Morale on the picket lines was high. Dickson urged this reporter to "make sure to mention these young kids in this union. They're doing a hell of a job. They have no negativism at all."

His attitude was echoed at the picket line at the plant's south entrance. Sheila Seach, a welder with three years at RMI, explained, "The company thought they were going to separate the older employees and the

younger employees. They thought we were all going to cave in."

Keith Lamb, a 10-year employee, added, "The new people are sticking tighter than half of the old people. The union is stronger now than it ever was." Lamb and Seach estimated that the company had hired well over 100 people in the past three years, and pointed out that the bosses tried to screen out workers with pro-union views.

Another factor that has strengthened the strike is the support from working people in the Mahoning Valley, which includes the cities of Niles, Warren, and Youngstown, Ohio. Cars passing by the picket lines honked constantly to demonstrate their support.

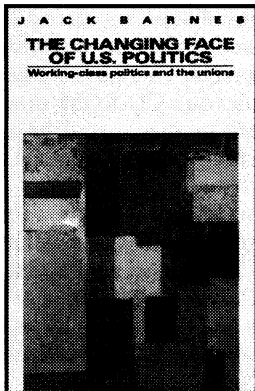
Three years ago steelworkers at WCI, a few miles up the road from RMI, fought a hard, militant strike that won the support of working people throughout the Mahoning Valley. The impact of the union victory at WCI is still felt in the valley.

In Dickson's opinion, "The WCI strike definitely solidified the unions in the valley."

Tom Altobelli added that "the WCI workers are the union brothers who have helped us out a lot." Keith Lamb recalled his frequent visits to the WCI picket lines in 1995 and the lively discussions he had there.

USWA Locals 2155 and 2155-7 have had two rallies of hundreds of workers so far to build support for the strike. Many of the unions which supported the WCI strike came out for these rallies: steelworkers from WCI, electrical workers from the General Motors subsidiary Packard Electric, members of the United Auto Workers, nurses from the United Nurses Association, Teamsters from Youngstown, public employees, and others.

FROM PATHFINDER



The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AND THE TRADE UNIONS
JACK BARNES

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Illinois miners strike

Continued from front page

day. He had taken the day off from his current job at Granite City Steel near St. Louis, Missouri, to come up and join the strikers. "I came up to show support and find out what the issues are. Our local is planning a gate collection and recently had strikers speak." Delost worked for 17 years at a preparation plant owned by Peabody Coal and was the vice president of the local. After a 1993 strike there he was laid off.

Delost informed the strikers that 66 workers at the power plant of the Anheuser-Busch brewery in St. Louis had walked off their jobs that morning. Teamsters struck for two days when the company began imposing its "final offer" concessionary contract, which had been rejected twice by workers. The power plant uses coal purchased from Freeman. A flyer has been circulated in the brewery informing workers about this.

Freeman, which is owned by General Dynamics, sent a letter to the striking UMWA members on October 27. The letter, signed by company president Walt Gregory, said Freeman has proposed a "new agreement that would help our company be competitive and continue to provide hundreds of good jobs."

The letter claims that Freeman United has proposed a "new, improved company pension program," adding, "I sincerely hope a new agreement can be reached soon. If this happens, our employees can return to work

and we can continue to face the many challenges of the coal industry together." Similar letters were sent to local papers throughout the area.

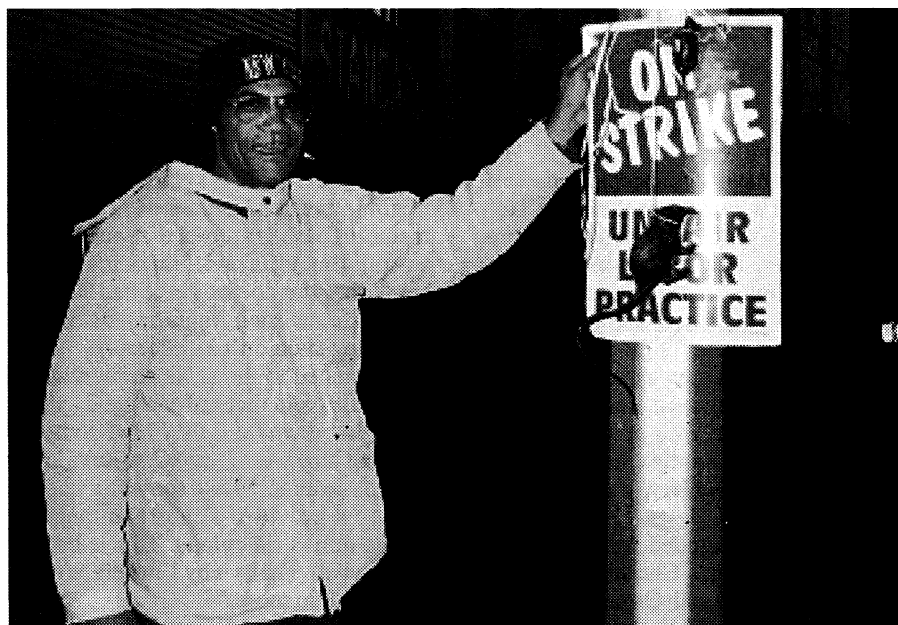
The next day negotiations between the UMWA and Freeman came to a standstill when the union rejected a proposal that would drastically limit seniority rights. Freeman's latest proposal cuts the seniority rights in job bidding and recall from layoffs.

When the union rejected the proposal, Freeman representatives walked out of the negotiations, threatening to sell the mines. The company also threatened to bring in scabs.

A press release issued by the UMWA October 30 read: "UMWA international vice president Jerry Jones commented that although the union seriously considered the company's health-care proposal, it was 'too much' when Freeman conditioned any settlement with forfeiting employee's seniority." Further negotiations have not been scheduled.

The strike against Freeman remains solid. The striking locals have set up the Illinois Miners Relief Fund. The fund has an office set up in the Farmersville UMWA strike headquarters where applications are taken from strikers who need help with utility, rent, and mortgage payments.

The auxiliary has set up a kitchen where meals are made for strikers who come to the headquarters for picket duty and other work.



Militant/Don Mackle

United Auto Workers striker at Standard Motors in New York points to sign indicating the month-long walkout has become an "unfair labor practices" lockout. The union members offered to return to work while negotiating a new contract, but the bosses, who want deep concessions, demanded the workers first pledge not to strike again. The rats symbolize the 12 workers out of 150 who have crossed the line.

They have organized a food pantry for strikers' families, and are already planning a Christmas party for December.

Donations to the strike fund help purchase food for the pantry. Union locals in the area are also organizing food collections, including the UMWA local at the Monterrey mine in Carlinville, Illinois.

For information on the strike, to request a speaker from the striking miners, or to offer support, contact the UMWA Strike Headquarters, P.O. Box 107, Farmersville, Illinois 65233 or call (217) 227-3233.

Alyson Kennedy is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers.

Northwest workers discuss AMFA's antiunion campaign

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ATLANTA — "My problem with AMFA is that I see them as, in reality, antiunion. It's not what you say, it's what you do. Watch their feet," explained James Patterson, a cleaner with 18 years at Northwest Airlines. "I've heard their message before. It comes almost like clockwork, when our contract comes up for negotiation."

The vote to determine whether cleaners, custodians, and mechanics at Northwest Airlines will continue to be represented by a union — the International Association of Machinists (IAM) — or by the pro-company Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) is now under way. On October 16 the National Mediation Board (NMB) mailed out ballots to 10,000 workers. All election ballots will be counted November 20.

AMFA has a long history of showing up when workers are in a fight with their bosses, only to become an obstacle in workers' advancing in their fight. Its campaign to break the mechanics from the IAM at Northwest Airlines comes right after the overwhelming rejection by IAM members of the company's July contract offer. Using AMFA's representational bid as its latest excuse, the company has suspended negotiations with all 27,000 IAM members at Northwest. This delay buys time for the company to recover from the blow of the victorious 15-day pilots' strike in September.

Last March, AMFA succeeded in capturing a majority of mechanics and cleaners previously organized by the IAM at Alaska Airlines. AMFA has also launched a campaign at United Airlines.

Pitting 'skilled' against 'unskilled'

AMFA's union-busting operation seeks to convince mechanics that they will be better off outside a union that also includes "unskilled" ramp, kitchen, and customer service workers. AMFA literature complains that the "IAM believes that mechanics are just another worker among the toiling masses," whereas "AMFA believes mechanics are highly skilled and talented individuals who deserve to be elevated in their status and pay."

Recognizing the serious stakes not only for themselves, but for all workers in the airline industry, a number of rank-and-file IAM members like Patterson have stepped forward to explain the union-busting aims and character of AMFA.

"When they talk about the rampers making too much money," Patterson said, "it's as if they think that taking a dollar away from the rampers will put it into their own pocket. Dream on AMFA, as the only person hurt is the ramper, a union brother! Will cleaners be next? It took a court order to force AMFA to accept cleaners. The real question is how long will it take this anti-

union outfit to turn inward upon its own mechanics?"

AMFA's pro-company outlook is put forward in a flier put out by the "AMFA-Minneapolis Organizing Committee" titled "When AMFA Wins, How Long Before We Get A Contract." The leaflet outlines three scenarios in the fight for a contract. First, the company will just give workers a good contract, second that AMFA and Northwest will enter into 60-day expedited negotiations, and third that if the company maintains its stance "the members can be assured that AMFA will keep them informed during the negotiations process." In the latter case, it is AMFA's "hope that Northwest management will seek to end the labor unrest, allowing Northwest Airlines to return to record profitability in which we can all share, and again become the preferred choice of our customers."

However, after almost a decade of concessions, most union members at Northwest have learned that there is no company goodwill in contract negotiations.

Veterans of Eastern strike

At the company's DC-9 maintenance facility in Atlanta, there are a couple hundred workers who were participants in the 686-day Eastern Airline strike in 1989-90. They were on the front lines of a battle against union busting that won important gains for all working people. They bring their experiences to this current fight.

"We were one of the most united and powerful fronts of labor," according to Robert Pais, a veteran of the Eastern strike and a machinist at Northwest. "What really hurts is to see some of the guys I was so united with now going the AMFA way."

The lessons of the Eastern strike are also being debated out in discussions on the shop floor. Countering AMFA's claims that the strike ended in defeat and that the IAM is to blame, former strikers are explaining their real history and how they fought back against Eastern president Frank Lorenzo's ultimatum: to either accept pay cuts as high as 56 percent in some categories, massive work-rule changes, the company's unlimited right to farm out work, the hiring of part-time workers, cuts in pension benefits, and more or fight to defend their union. Three workers have bought copies of *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists and Gains for the Labor Movement*, published by Pathfinder Press, and supporters of the IAM have lent the book to one another and made copies of pages out of the book.

IAM officials and their campaign materials have not effectively answered AMFA's arguments. Instead, IAM officials decided to restructure the IAM at Northwest by setting up a separate district for mechanics, a decision that has set back the union's abil-

ity to fight against AMFA. Many rank-and-file union members recognize that this restructuring plan plays into the hands of the bosses' divide-and-rule tactics.

"I don't agree with dividing any group of workers," explained Bill Collett, another veteran of the Eastern strike, who has nine years as a cleaner at Northwest. "The reason we got as far as we did at Eastern was because the unions came together against a common enemy, not against each other. The strike was the strongest when it was machinists, pilots, and flight attendants against Frank Lorenzo and Texas Air, something the airline industry had never seen."

"I don't think they need to subdivide us like that on a national basis," agreed Kathy McCoy, a cleaner with three years at Northwest. "They're breaking us down even more, sort of like AMFA. You can fight harder as a majority, than as a minority. Numbers is how you can show the corporations what you want."

McCoy related a discussion she had with an AMFA leader at the Atlanta hangar who tried to convince her to support his outfit. "He said that AMFA will make sure there is 'accountability' on the job. In other words, take your co-worker to management if you don't think he's working hard enough — something I could never do. That showed me that AMFA is with the company, hand-in-hand."

IAM and AMFA supporters here are wearing hats and T-shirts and buttons. A group of Atlanta Teamsters distributed a leaflet against AMFA's attack on the union, while AMFA has set up weekly tables in front of the hangar. The mood here is tense.

Importance of solidarity

Among the ranks of the IAM, union members are discussing the importance of social questions in defending the union. "When women first came to work in the hangar, the

attitude of the guys was that they were threatened by us, and many gave us a hard time," stated Carol Young, a cleaner in the engine shop with 20 years at Northwest. "They said women shouldn't make the same money as men." Young pointed with pride to how women stood up to the challenges they faced and over time achieved mutual respect. "But now a lot of these mechanics have the same attitude with AMFA, saying the 'unskilled' are making too much."

"What's a 'skill' anyway? Who decides? If it's a division among workers, it doesn't help any one of us," stated Kenneth Lawson, a mechanic with 31 years at Northwest. "Does it help the worker in Texas to be against the worker in Mexico?"

"I grew up here in the South," Lawson continued. "I saw things here in the '50s, things that sickened me. An older Black man calling me 'Mister' when I was just a boy of 18. A store owner refusing to let Black workers on the road crew buy themselves lunch.... If one of us is second class, all of us are second class. I was a student when the big protests at Rich's department store were taking place. That movement was for all of us. I don't want to start going backwards again."

Pointing to the contributions of youth in today's labor struggles, Terry Tindall, a machinist at Northwest, referred to the strikes for union recognition conducted by workers at McDonald's fast-food chain. "They're a good example for us to think about. From what I understand they are getting a lot more accomplished than we are. They didn't have a lot of money, they didn't even have a union. But they got organized, stuck together, and were willing to fight. Their power was their solidarity."

Arlene Rubinstein is a member of IAM Local 2665 and a cleaner at Northwest Airlines. Mike Italie contributed to this article.

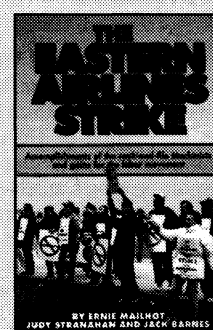
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The Eastern Airlines Strike

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Hundreds rally to protest murder of doctor

Continued from front page
must be allowed to practice medicine and not fear for their lives."

Junda Woo, a member of Medical Students for Choice and a student at the State University of New York medical school here, told the *Militant* that "educating students on abortion is not a routine part of medical training. Only 12 percent of medical schools make it a part of routine training." Woo said, "This is part of taking away choice. There are not enough doctors to train students." Speaking to the rally, Woo pointed out that 84 percent of the counties in the United States and 40 percent in New York state have no abortion services.

Other speakers included representatives of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), National Organization for Women, Western New York Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Planned Parenthood, the National People's Campaign, and Indians for Choice.

Sarah Hill, a 16-year-old high school student in Buffalo, told the *Militant* she came

to the rally because "I feel the pro-choice movement is part of my life and I believe it's a woman's right." Hill is an escort for patients at the Buffalo GYN Women's Services. "I got interested because as far as I can remember I've been pro-choice and I can't just sit still. I'm not afraid. I think it's unfair and crazy that the doctor got killed. If they respect life, as their signs say at the clinic, then they shouldn't kill doctors."

"I listened to the news about that doctor they killed and that kid Matthew [Shepard] and I asked why did they have to be killed for what they were," said Carl Itoka, a supermarket worker. "That someone should be killed for provided a choice or their sexual orientation is ridiculous. This is beginning to snowball. That's why I'm here, to find out how I can do more."

Scott Chismar, an organizer for Teamsters Local 264, said he "came to support a woman's right to choose and to stop the assault of the right wing." He said he and his wife were on their way back from vacation in Florida when they heard about the

murder, and went straight to the vigil held that night.

Kevin Dwire is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1196 in Cleveland. Ruth Nebbia contributed to this article.

BY ROSALIND RAYMOND

TORONTO — "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" chanted more than 100 people October 31 outside the offices of Campaign Life, an organization that opposes women's right to choose abortion.

The action was called to protest the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian in New York state and to call for defending doctors who continue to provide abortion services.

Sponsored by the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC), the rally featured several speakers. Rhonda Raffety, speaking for OCAC said, "Terrorism doesn't work to restrict abortion access." She said 10 doctors volunteered to continue providing abortions at Slepian's clinic in Buffalo immediately after he was killed.

Chris Melnick of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League called Slepian's killing "a calculated act of terrorism" and demanded to know why the police had not made any arrests in the sniper-shootings of three doctors who provide abortion services in Canada since 1994.

Wayne Samuelson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labor, also spoke at the rally. He targeted the Ontario provincial government of Premier Michael Harris saying, "Harris's cutbacks, which shut down schools and hospitals, also shuts down choice and access to abortion services."

Sherrie McDonald of OCAC called on the participants at the rally to help defend doctors in Toronto who perform abortions and said, "We have a message for the police and the politicians: we will not go back to the days when abortion was illegal and we will not be intimidated by antichoice forces who have lost the battle politically and are trying to win it back through violence."

BY ELENA TATE

BOSTON — "We need to speak out across the country, or else our rights as women are going to be trampled upon," Lilie Schechter, 18, a student at Boston University, said as she participated in a memorial protest of the murder of Barnett Slepian.

Some 150 supporters of a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion protested Slepian's assassination at a rally here October 28. Participants, the vast majority of whom were young women, gathered nearby and marched to the Massachusetts State House in the rain, many holding signs or candles. Some signs read: "Stand up for choice, we won't go back" and "Anti-choice violence = Organized Crime." A number of speakers addressed the crowd from the State House steps.

Danielle Slepian, a niece of Dr. Slepian, had just returned from services for her uncle in New York that afternoon. "My uncle was dedicated to providing comprehensive medical care for women," she said. "He said that as long as abortions were needed, he would provide them. He also believed that as long as there was 'pro-life' rhetoric branding abortion doctors as murderers, there would be violence. And there was."

Dr. Carlin Chi, a family medical resident, pointed to the lack of training in abortion provision in medical schools, and urged medical students to push for this type of training.

Jessica Evans, a student at Boston University, told the *Militant*, "It's amazing that we're still having problems with assuring our right to a safe, legal abortion. This was something my mother fought for."

Katherine Ragsdale, chairwoman of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, also addressed the crowd, saying she was representing 15 religious congregations that are officially pro-choice. The rally was sponsored by of the Reproductive Rights Network, the Abortion Access Project, the National Abortion Rights Action League, and the Boston National Organization for Women.

Boston garment workers demand gov't protect right to choose abortion

The following letter, addressed to U.S. president William Clinton and New York governor George Pataki, was signed by 14 workers at the Sterlingwear garment shop in Boston. The letter was circulated in the plant in English and Spanish.

Dear Sirs,

We, the undersigned members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), condemn the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian, a doctor who provided services including abortion to working and poor women in Amherst, N.Y. This killing is a threat to all women,

to our unions, and to anyone who stands up for their rights. It serves to point out the responsibility of the government to insure women can exercise their rights to have an abortion.

We demand the federal and state governments provide full funding and utilize other means at their disposal so women can have safe and legal access to abortion if they so choose.

Sincerely,
Members of UNITE Local 1
Boston, MA

cc: Newspaper editors
National Organization for Women
New England Joint Board, UNITE

CALENDAR

FLORIDA

Miami

Free All Puerto Rican Political Prisoners. Release Antonio Camacho and Juan Segarra! Picket line: Sat., Nov. 14, 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Federal Detention Center, NE 5th St. at N. Miami Ave. (Downtown Miami). Open House to follow, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 137 NE 54th St.

Public Forum and speak out. Panel of speakers to include: Irving Forestier, Orlando chapter of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners. Nov. 14, 4 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 137 NE 54th St.

Picket the Federal Courthouse in Orlando on Sat., Oct. 21.

Sponsored by the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners. For more information call: South Florida (305) 572-9462, or Orlando area (407) 323-7636.

NEW YORK

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Support the Black Farmers of America. Speaker: Gary Grant, national president of the Black Farmers Association. Dole Sat., Nov. 14, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Admission and lunch is free. Sponsored by A. Philip Randolph Institute, The Westchester Chapter, The City of Mount Vernon Department of Recreation, The New York State Chapter of The Black Farmers Association. Community Center, 6th Ave. (Between 3rd and 4th Streets).

CANADA

Toronto

Hear Cuban Youth and Women Leaders. Juan Carlos Frómata de la Rosa, Union of Young Communists of Cuba; and Raiza Rodríguez González, Cuban Federation of University Students and Federation of Cuban Women. Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Canada-Cuba Friendship Association, Canadian Federation of Students of Ontario, Cuban Youth Tour Committee, Cultural Group Nicolás Guillén, Destination Cuba, José Martí Cultural Alliance, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, University of Toronto Student Union, Young Socialists. 20 Wilcocks Street, Westmore Hall, New College, University of Toronto. For more information, call: (416) 530-0051. Fax: (416) 415-2695. cubanyouthtour@hotmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Defend Abortion Rights — Speak Out against Murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian. Speakers: Sarah Roche-Mahdi, women's rights activist and scholar; Lillie Schechter, member of SPEC-TRUM, Boston University; and Margrethe Siem, Socialist Workers Party and member of United Transportation Union. Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

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BRITAIN

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Russia 1917: How Working People Took Power. Speaker: Paul Davies, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Upstairs at 60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

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Tell us about it — According to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Ass'n*, an estimated 180,000 people are killed each year by medical mistakes that largely go



Harry Ring

unreported. "Unfortunately," the *Journal* concedes, "error in medicine is real and common."

'Morality' — The Pope praised

the U.S. antiabortion movement as "one of the most positive aspects of American life." Meanwhile, he took the initial step toward conferring "sainthood" on Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac. During World War II, Stepinac was closely associated with the fascist Ustasi regime in Croatia. The Ustasi slaughtered Serbs and Jews in massive numbers.

What price racism? — In West Virginia, 1996 state records indicated that the infant mortality rates for Blacks is 22 percent as compared to 7 percent among whites.

The dough flattened — A decade ago, a favored sign of the Russian regime's steps toward capital-

ist restoration was the sprouting of U.S. fast-food chains. One of the biggies was Pizza Hut, which just recently had ex-prez Gorbachev in a commercial. Now, Pizza Hut has announced it will be shutting down its two Moscow stores.

And the price of pizza will be? — "Russia Expecting Inflation at 300%" — News headline.

March of science — A London court was asked to order a DNA test to determine if a mouse skull was English or Turkish. A woman became ill after spitting the skull out of a hazelnut chocolate bar. She's suing and the prosecution claims the warehouse where hazelnuts were

stored is mouse-infested. Mars candy insists the rodent came in with imported Turkish hazelnuts.

Got the dwindles? — Columbia HCA Healthcare concedes that its third-quarter earnings were less than hoped for. Under Medicare investigation, the world's biggest for-profit chain had been unloading its assets. They've sold 17 hospitals and 34 surgery centers, and plan to put some medical office buildings on the block, plus two large groups of hospitals.

They shall beat the plowshares... — Secretary of war William Cohen was slated to give an October 28 lecture on "The Condi-

tions of Peace in the 21st Century." at UCLA's Anderson School — the university's business school.

Nothing's perfect — "In Glennville, California, a small town in the Sierra hills, the air might be a little bit cleaner, but the water, blech, it's undrinkable. The two events actually have a common source. A gasoline additive that is used to cut air pollution, called MTBE, is showing up in the town's well water.

"Not only are Glennville residents upset, but so are communities around the country that have seen this potentially toxic chemical seep into their water supplies." — *USA Today*

1938: how Teamsters quelled fascist thugs

Below are excerpts taken from the book *Teamster Politics* by Farrell Dobbs, a leader of the Teamsters during the historic 1934 Minneapolis strikes and the Socialist Workers Party. It describes how in the 1930s Teamsters Local 544 and other unionists formed a defense guard that pushed back the thug threats of the Silver Shirts, a fascist outfit that was spawned from the deepening capitalist economic crisis of the 1930s. *Teamster Politics* is copyright © 1975 by the Anchor Foundation, Inc., reprinted by permission.

Clashes between capital and labor in times of social crisis tend to stimulate activity among political demagogues with a fascist mentality. They anticipate that intensification of the class struggle will cause sections of the ruling class to turn away from

BOOK OF THE WEEK

parliamentary democracy and its methods of rule, and resort to fascism as the way to hold on to state power and protect special privilege....

One of these profascist groups, the Silver Shirts of America, was of special concern to General Drivers Union, Local 544. It was started in 1932 by William Dudley Pelley, who opened a headquarters in Asheville, North Carolina, and published a weekly organ called *Liberation*....

Apparently this caused a section of the boss class in Minneapolis to become interested in the movement; and Pelley was encouraged to send one of his aides, Roy Zachary, to the city in the summer of 1938 to launch an organizing drive. Two Silver Shirt rallies followed in quick succession, on July 29 and August 2, at the Royal Arcanum hall....

It became known immediately that Zachary's main theme had been to call for a vigilante attack on the headquarters of Local 544....

This situation called for prompt counter-measures. So Local 544, acting with its customary decisiveness, answered the threat by organizing a union defense guard during August 1938....

The local served public notice that it would take care of its own defense, putting no misplaced reliance on the police for protection.

The union leaders were fully aware that capitalist politicians in seats of power not only tend to wink at fascist hooliganism; they often encourage and abet such extralegal attacks on workers. Not only that. Their minions, the police, condone and protect fascist activities, become members of such movements and, when open violence is used against the trade unions, usually look the other way....

Conceptually, the guard was not envisaged as the narrow formation of a single union. It was viewed rather as the nucleus around which to build the broadest possible united defense movement.... It was expected that time and events could also make it possible to extend the united front to include the unemployed, minority peoples, youth — all potential victims of the fascists, vigilantes, or other reactionaries....

The only requirements for inclusion in its ranks were readiness to defend the unions from attack, willingness to take the necessary training for that purpose, and acceptance of the democratic discipline required in a combat unit....

The organization raised its own funds — for purchases of equipment and to meet general expenses — by sponsoring dances and other social affairs. Part of this money was used to buy two .22 caliber target pistols and two .22 caliber rifles to give guard members a way to improve their ability to shoot straight....

Members of the guard were not armed by the unions, since in the given circumstances that would have made them vulnerable to police frame-ups. But many of them had guns of their own at home, which were used to hunt game; and those could quickly have been picked up if needed to fight off an armed attack by Silver Shirt thugs....

One particular episode graphically illustrated the breadth of the intelligence arm, as well as the guard's effectiveness in action. It came about when the Silver Shirts attempted to hold another rally, to be addressed by Pelley himself.

On the day of the scheduled affair a cab driver delivered Pelley to a residence in the city's silk-stocking district. The driver immediately reported this to [Ray] Rainbolt, who telephoned the place and warned that Pelley would run into trouble if he went ahead. To show he was not bluffing, Rainbolt led a section of the union guard to Calhoun Hall, where the rally was to be held that night. Arrival of the union forces caused the audience to leave in a hurry, and the demagogue never did show up....

Following that incident the Teamsters took a step calculated to throw a further scare into the would-be union busters. It came in the form of a special notice printed on the front page of the *Northwest Organizer* of September 29, 1938. The notice instructed all captains of the defense guard to have their squads up to full strength forthwith and to be prepared to mobilize them, ready for action, on short notice.



Teamsters Local 544 "Union Defense Guard" in August 1938, formed to face threat of fascist Silver Shirts.

The move seemed to have the desired effect, for the Silver Shirts transferred their next meeting to the neighboring city of St. Paul. It was held on October 28 at the Minnehaha Hall, and the place was well guarded by cops. Zachary was the main speaker. As reported in the newspapers the next morning, he boasted:

"Leaders of 544 have said we cannot hold meetings in Minneapolis, but we shall hold them, with the aid of the police. The police know that some day they'll need our support and that's why they're supporting us now."

Zachary's line was taken seriously by the Teamsters for several reasons. More could have been involved in the St. Paul affair than a mere effort to boost the sagging morale of the profascist elements by holding a successful meeting. Part of the scheme could also have been to bring pres-

sure upon the Minneapolis authorities to provide them with comparable police protection in that city as well....

Acting on such assumptions, the high command of the union defense guard decided to put on a public show of force....

Toward those ends an emergency mobilization of the defense formation was called on one hour's notice.... By the designated assembly time, just sixty minutes after the call first went out, about 300 members of the guard had turned out ready for action — an impressive performance....

As for the ultrarightists, they appeared to have gotten the union's message loud and clear. Zachary made no further attempts to hold rallies in Minneapolis; fascist propaganda tapered off; and after a time it became evident that the Silver Shirt organizing drive in the city had been discontinued altogether.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

November 16, 1973

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 — "Fun City" became "Strike City" this week.

Firemen staged an unprecedented job action for higher pay; the Newspaper Guild shut down the Daily News, 5,000 stewards and stewardesses grounded Trans World Airlines; and employees of the Museum of Modern Art and the New York Philharmonic were still on picket lines.

By far the largest action came when 30,000 hospital workers, most of them Black and Puerto Rican women, walked off their jobs Nov. 5 in an effort to win a 7.5 percent wage increase already promised in their union contract. The target of the strike by Drug and Hospital Workers Local 1199 is not just the hospital management but Nixon's Cost of Living Council, which has refused to allow the raise.

The strikers' case is simple: They are low-paid service, maintenance, and laboratory workers. Many of them take home only \$130 a week. The contract they won in June 1972 included a 7.5 percent of \$12 increase, whichever is greater, beginning last July. A scare campaign is being whipped up in the media about "danger" to patients and "violence" by strikers. Picketers respond that if the hospitals really care about their patients, they should simply pay the raise.

THE MILITANT

November 15, 1948

America's imperialist policy-makers are acutely alarmed over the staggering military reverse suffered by the Chiang Kai-shek regime. With the loss of Manchuria and North China, the Chiang dictatorship has little chance of surviving.

The impending downfall of this Chinese Franco is viewed by American Big Business as nothing less than a calamity. They fear that all China — first in population and second in size among countries of the world — may pass under Stalinist influence.

Washington's support of the Chiang regime has aroused bitter hatred of America among the Chinese people. This became evident soon after V-J Day, when giant student demonstrations in Shanghai and other cities demanded that American troops, get out of China. Two American citizens in Peiping wrote a letter to The New York Times, published in the Nov. 17 issue, calling attention to the hatred which American support of Chiang has aroused. Chiang's planes, they say, follow a policy that "seems to be to bomb and strafe any concentration of people they can sight, to attack any building of size whatever its use, and to specialize on cities that have just suffered the trials of siege and capture whether there is any hope of early recovery or not."

FROM PATHFINDER

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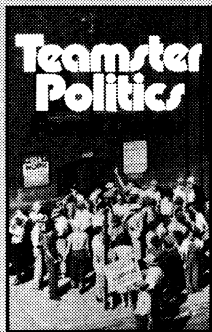
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Cancel debt of Central America!

Working people around the world should demand that the Clinton administration and other imperialist governments send massive, unconditional aid to Honduras and Nicaragua — the two countries that have been devastated by Hurricane Mitch. We should demand the aid be delivered immediately and call for cancellation of the foreign debt of all countries in Central America and elsewhere in the Third World.

Honduran government officials estimated that at least 7,000 people have been killed by the hurricane that swept the region beginning October 27. Those left homeless range from 600,000 to 2 million people. On top of this disaster, the Casita volcano in Nicaragua unleashed a mountain of mud over the weekend of October 31–November 1 that buried more than 1,500 people. The death toll is expected to climb to more than 22,000 people in the two countries.

So far, very little aid has been proffered from Washington and other governments in the developed capitalist countries.

Meanwhile, Honduran government officials met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund to discuss the “structural adjustment” of Honduras’ \$4 billion foreign debt — that is, how can the wealthy barons in the United States maintain their loan shark operation and continue to squeeze the interest payments on this debt from the Honduran working masses in the wake of this catastrophe.

As much as 70 percent of Honduran agriculture has been wiped out, which accounts for half the country’s \$3 billion annual economic output.

The results of Hurricane Mitch will be similar to those wrought by Hurricane Georges, which hit the Caribbean just a few weeks ago. It is imperialist plunder that has fostered underdevelopment in the semicolonial and colonial world, wreak-

ing horrendous consequences when a natural disaster hammers those regions. The shoddy roads, dilapidated housing, insufficient health care and communications are not caused by volcano eruptions or tropical storms but by a criminal system of class exploitation and imperialist domination. And the bourgeois governments in these nations prostrate themselves before their imperial masters in United States, who don’t give a damn about the social devastation of millions of workers and peasants.

In contrast to Washington’s contempt and stinginess, a team of 14 Cuban doctors arrived in Honduras on November 3 to help with the hurricane relief. The Nicaraguan government rejected Havana’s volunteers but accepted 3,000 pounds of medical supplies from Cuba, reflecting the regime’s fear that Cuba’s internationalism could rekindle the revolutionary embers that were dampened after the fall of the workers and farmers government that came to power there in 1979. The toilers in Nicaragua got a taste of power when they took destiny into their own hands. Indeed, the U.S.-backed President Arnoldo Alemán was greeted with jeers, catcalls, boos, and shouts of “we need food and where is the aid?” when he visited the region of León.

This is a stark example of why the billionaire class and their puppets in Latin America are terrified of the selfless solidarity of the Cuban people and their revolutionary government. When Hurricane Georges hit Cuba, the workers and farmers there organized in a calm and disciplined way to take preventive measures, and they had access to health care and other needed resources. Their internationalism shows how workers in power with a communist leadership offer the moral high ground, standing in contrast to the dog-eat-dog values of capitalist society exemplified by Washington.

U.S. vote: bourgeois politics shifts left

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Despite predictions to the contrary in opinion polls leading up to the November 3 elections, the Democratic Party gained an additional five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, narrowing the Republican majority in Congress to 223-to-211. In the U.S. Senate, the balance of seats between the two capitalist parties remained unchanged, with Republicans maintaining their 55-45 majority. The Republican Party leadership was striving to increase its hold on the Senate to 60 seats — banking on making gains off the sex scandals that have surrounded the presidency of William Clinton pushed mainly by rightist politicians. Their tactics failed.

The election results in the United States are another confirmation of a shift to the left in bourgeois politics in most imperialist countries that has been visible for more than a year. In the last weeks before the November 3 vote, many Democratic politicians tried to portray themselves as the main defenders of Social Security and proponents of increasing government spending for education.

In Washington State working people and others demonstrated their concern about low wages by voting to raise the state minimum wage from \$4.90 to \$6.50 per hour in a referendum. The initiative passed overwhelmingly.

The other most notable result in the U.S. elections was the upset victory of Reform Party candidate James George Janos Ventura, a former wrestler who was elected governor of Minnesota, defeating both the Democratic and Republican contenders. The Minnesota election points to the second main trend in bourgeois politics: a rise in social polarization that puts wind in the sails of rightists who play on the insecurities of the middle classes and better-off layers of workers to gain a hearing for their radical demagoguery against the “corrupt elite” in Washington. This insecurity, often approaching panic, is produced by the growing instability and deepening economic and social crisis of the capitalist system.

Ventura’s win also shows that the two-party system the U.S. rulers put together with the rise of imperialism at the end of the 19th century is not immune to breakup.

The outcome in Minnesota was similar to the vote for Ross Perot in the 1992 presidential elections, when the Texas billionaire who ran for president won 19 percent of the ballots cast. Perot founded the Reform Party following the 1992 vote.

The victory of Ventura is the first major electoral gain for this formation, whose candidates have capitalized on deepening resentment against the Democratic and Republican parties. Campaigning on a demagogic, stand-above-parties axis, Reform candidates have focused on electing “strong leaders” who can break through the “gridlock” of government. Ventura’s Bonapartist character was most evident as he campaigned sporting a sweatshirt with “Navy Seals” on it — the U.S. Navy’s special forces, like the army’s Green Berets, that Ventura boasted of having served in for six years.

Shift to the left in Europe

The results of the elections show that the rulers have been unable to convince working people to accept the bosses’ demands for greater sacrifice today, supposedly for the common good tomorrow. If anything, defensive strikes and other struggles by working people in the United States have accelerated over the last six months.

This trend has been more pronounced in Europe. “With the new Social Democratic-led government of Gerhard Schröder now in control in Germany, the European car may be veering dangerously to the left,” said an editorial in the October 31 *Economist*. “Helmut Kohl, and his finance minister Theo

Waigel, have been replaced by politicians who prefer to talk of expansion and job creation rather than of price stability and fiscal rigor.” The article was titled “Europe swerves left.”

Referring to the attempt to declare a common currency, the “euro,” among European Union (EU) member countries by January 1, the editorial said “the left now controls or shares power in nine of the euro’s 11 prospective members. The new German finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, sounds even more Keynesian and critical of central bankers than his French socialist colleague, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. True, the left is a far paler shade of pink than it was. Yet a shift in Europe’s economic consensus seemed to emerge at last week’s summit of EU leaders in Austria, which called for lower interest rates, for more public investment to create jobs, and for policies to fight ‘unfair’ tax competition.”

The *Economist* editors, who openly expressed disgruntlement with this trend, said it’s not right “to blame tight money for the euro-11’s average jobless rate of 11.1%, compared with 4.6% in America. The real culprit is excessive rigidities in labour and product markets.” That is, the *Economist* advocates slashing social services, wages, and working conditions.

But as working-class resistance to the bosses’ belt-tightening demands has intensified in all imperialist countries, and the threat of collapse of the world banking system or other major financial catastrophe has loomed closer, a majority among the ruling classes are opting, for now, to lower interest rates, speak demagogically about job creation, and distance themselves from proposals to slash the social wage. This is exactly what many Democratic candidates, and to a lesser degree Republicans, tried to do in the last month of the campaign.

Scandalmongering backfires

The attempt by the Republican party to exploit the scandalmongering against the Clinton administration seems to have backfired. In one of the races for U.S. Congress, for example, in District 12 of New Jersey, Democratic candidate Rush Holt, who defeated Republican incumbent Michael Pappas, used as his main TV ads clips of his opponent singing a song of praise to Kenneth Starr on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Starr, the special prosecutor appointed to investigate Clinton, delivered a voluminous report to Congress September 10, with salacious details of the affair between the president and former White House employee Monica Lewinsky. The House judiciary committee later endorsed Starr’s call for impeachment proceedings against the president. But the release of Starr’s report, compounded by the airing on television of a videotape with Clinton’s grand jury testimony on this case that was filled with more lurid details, was met by negative reactions by many working people.

Also noteworthy was the defeat of veteran Senator Alfonse D’Amato, a New York Republican who was a leading player in the congressional investigation of Clinton, by his Democratic opponent Charles Schumer.

At the same time, the ultraright, the main pusher and beneficiary of these exposés, has taken advantage of the scandal to get a wider hearing for its demagoguery against the “elite” in Washington and both of the main ruling parties.

The Ventura campaign in Minnesota stressed the need for a strong executive authority and weaker legislature. Ventura presented himself a tough guy who would “support legislation on its merits, not on the basis of which party proposed it.” He had little to say about what he proposed and a lot about what he opposed. “As governor,” he stated on numerous occasions, “I will veto any taxes and any increase in existing taxes.”

Imperialists have no right to try Pinochet

Letters from readers Albert Fried-Cassorla and John Laurence about the Communist League statement opposing the arrest of Chilean Gen. Augusto Pinochet in London (printed in the November 2 issue of the *Militant*) pose an important question for working-class fighters. In response to this event in politics, how do you determine a course of action that consistently promotes the independence, self-confidence, class-consciousness, and international solidarity of workers and their allies?

To answer this you must look at the divide between workers and the rulers both in the country

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

where you live, and on a world scale.

To call for the prosecution of the killers of Matthew Shepherd is a way of forging unity in action among all those opposed to this rightist killing. The protests draw the line, in practice, against those who support and promote homophobia and other prejudices sown by the bosses to divide us. It is true that the class-biased system of capitalist cops and courts isn’t one where workers will find justice. But the deep-seated view held by millions of workers is that in a bourgeois democracy justice *should be* the right of all. In a struggle, such views can become a powerful impetus for revolutionary change.

That would not be the case if we were to call for the British — or Spanish, French, or Swiss ruling class — to try the Chilean butcher Pinochet. It would aid the British rulers, who argue they have the right to put “international criminals against humanity” on trial. It serves to obscure the international criminal role played by the imperialist governments on a daily basis, as part and parcel of their system of economic exploitation of the world and its resources. It sets workers here against the workers, farmers, and youth in Chile who must successfully oppose imperialist intervention in their country if they are ever to bring Pinochet and his ilk to justice.

For 100 years now the world has been divided into imperialist oppressor and colonial or semicolonial oppressed nations. For workers and peasants in those countries dominated by the minority of wealthy industrialized nations there is a double enemy. Every time the toilers organize to take on the local rulers, they find the imperial masters standing right behind. This was the case in Pinochet’s 1973 coup in Chile. The coup was organized with the direct military and political intervention of the imperial classes in the United States, with the backing of the other capitalist powers.

The watchword of working-class fighters in Britain — the only way to promote international unity and solidarity between workers in the imperialist countries and those in the oppressed countries — is by fighting always against the rulers in your own country. We demand they get their grasping hands off those countries. That’s what guides the stand taken by the Communist League and the *Militant*.

The campaign by the left and liberals to extradite Pinochet promotes the lie that the imperialists are the great civilizers of the world, rather than it’s most ruthless exploiters. It assists the rulers’ assertion that they have the right to intervene and to go to war in Bosnia, Iraq, or Sudan, and helps to tie workers in Britain to the idea that the “we” in the world is “we the British nation” rather than “we the workers and toilers of the world.”

Former Tory prime minister Margaret Thatcher took advantage of Pinochet’s arrest to beat the drum of British nationalism, opposing the arrest and hailing Pinochet for his collaboration in the war against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands in 1992. This rallying cry gave a boost to the chauvinist press coverage of Argentine President Carlos Menem’s state visit to the UK. No voice was raised from the liberals or left that challenged Thatcher and opposed the colonial war against Argentina.

The pickets outside the hospital in London are organized by many of the same forces who led the Chilean workers into a bloody defeat in 1973 by preaching reliance on the liberal wing of the bourgeoisie instead of arming the workers. It was the Communist Party-led Left Unity and a section of liberals within the Spanish bourgeoisie who called for the arrest of Pinochet. In Chile the rightist forces have felt the wind in their sails, organizing militant street demonstrations of up to 45,000 in well off neighborhoods. It has in no way advanced the interests of the workers and peasants of Chile.

— IAN GRANT

Lenc-Smith workers reject pay cut, walk out

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute

the march that most of the workers at Lenc-Smith are immigrants. "If we're going to stay strong, we have to stay united. Joining the immigrant's right march is a way to strengthen the strike at Lenc-

Smith." thugs have been hired to harass and intimidate union workers.

A graphic example of company arrogance is reflected in a letter being circulated by the union. The letter is signed by Pam Roberts, and co-signed by about 60 of her co-workers. It reads, "On Friday, October 2nd, 1998, at 3:00 p.m., several Meijer employees, including myself, attended a meeting at Meijer 116 in the store's Team Center. Betty Bethel of Meijer Labor Relations Board led the meeting and very bluntly informed us that being employed by Meijer should only be used as a stepping stone for something better. She said that the jobs at Meijer were not meant to be careers for people, unless they planned to pursue management, and, therefore, the people who hold these jobs obviously should not expect to be paid enough to support families with."

"She went on to say that if we desire jobs with wages suitable for supporting our families, we should go back to school and try to better ourselves, or simply find other jobs. Betty then proceeded to tell us that she loves us. I told her that she does not love us, since she did not know any of us. I also pointed out to her that she had just insulted all of us, and called us ignorant and uneducated. My statement she did not deny."

On October 12, more than 200 people turned out for a solidarity rally at the UFCW union hall. Meijer workers cheered as union representatives throughout northwest Ohio, came to express their support for the Meijer workers' struggle for a living wage and decent benefits. A steering committee of labor unions and community leaders was formed at the rally to organize informational picketing at the four stores.

The first demonstration was held at the Alexis Road store on October 17. Hundreds of unionists and sup-

ON THE PICKET LINE

short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

CICERO, Illinois — On July 1, some 150 workers from Lenc-Smith, located in this suburb of Chicago, went on strike. We are members of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 1199. We make pinball and video game machines.

Three years ago we accepted a pay cut. The company then said we would get the money back. But this year the company demanded another pay cut. Many jobs would pay only \$6.25 per hour. For example, Rosa Patrocinia, a striker with 27 years in the plant, would go from \$8.98 to \$6.25. We refuse to let our workers with the most seniority suffer.

The company has not been negotiating in good faith and they want to break the union. Other demands deal with the language in the contract and job security.

Our picket lines are strong and we intend to fight this company to the end.

We have had a lot of support from different organizations and unions. We have had several rallies in which AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, Congressman Luis Gutierrez, Democratic candidate for governor of Illinois Glenn Poshard, and Ed Fire, president of our union participated.

We were invited by IUE District 11 Secretary-Treasurer Jaime Martínez to participate in "the people's march" October 12 — an immigrant's rights march in Chicago sponsored by Coordinadora '96-2000. About 50 of us went, both Latino and Black workers. One of the Black strikers, Vernon, said at

Smith."

The union is trying to organize a rally and march for early November.

Toledo store workers fight for justice at Meijer

TOLEDO, Ohio — Once again, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 911 are locked in an escalating struggle for a living wage and affordable health care. About 1,700 Meijer workers have been working without a contract since September 19. Meijer, a mammoth supermarket/discount department store expanding throughout the Midwest, is seeking to maintain its company-wide system of low wages.

Four years ago, Toledo Meijer workers fought a 55-day strike, which forced Meijer back to the bargaining table. The ratified contract lagged way behind the wages and benefits of other UFCW-organized supermarkets in the Toledo area. Now, Meijer workers, by a 90 percent margin, have said no to the Company's "last and final" offer.

The local has distributed a fact sheet on its fight with Meijer. Topping the list of many grievances are the low wages, health-care premiums of up to \$61 a week, keeping a layer of workers who work full-time in part-time pay status, and denying basic benefits such as premium pay for midnight shift work.

No more than 20 percent of Meijer workers qualify for a miserly pension. It is no surprise that many Meijer workers are on food stamps and other forms of public assistance.

Meijer has stepped up its harassment of the union. It has threatened union representatives with arrest if they enter the Toledo stores. Workers are constantly bombarded by a company video recording urging them to resign from the union. Surveillance cameras installed in break rooms constantly monitor workers to enforce a ban on union discussions and activities. Vance Security



Hundreds of members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 911 and supporters protest outside Meijer supermarket in Toledo, Ohio, October 17.

porters gathered at the store's parking lot entrances with picket signs calling for a living wage. Afterwards, a spirited rally was held at the nearby parking lot of the Toledo Speedway. The next solidarity action is planned for November 8 at the Woodville Road store.

Flight attendants rally for contract at Northwest

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — More than 150 flight attendants and their supporters participated in a noon rally at the steps of the Minnesota Capitol Building October 29 as part of nationwide rallies demanding a better contract.

Northwest workers in other unions were there, including pilots who recently won a strike against Northwest and several ramp workers. A couple of members of the International Association of Machin-

ists were there during their lunch break. "I am here because we need to show support for the other unions at Northwest," said Tracie Rademacher, a ramp crew member.

Among the other unions represented were the United Food and Commercial Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"We can win a better contract because we are all very united," said Giovanna Ingram, a flight attendant with 10 years on the job. "Myself and others will go out on strike if we have to get one."

Grace Herrada, a member of IUE Local 1199 on strike at Lenc-Smith in Cicero; Alan Epstein, a member of the United Auto Workers in Toledo and Frank Gorton, a UAW member in Detroit; and Javier Aravena, member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers in St. Paul contributed to this column.

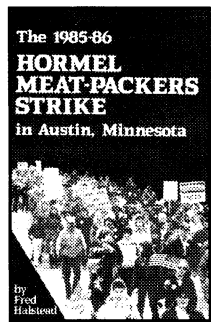
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LETTERS

Pinochet arrest I

I was surprised to see that the *Militant* considers the arrest of Augusto Pinochet to be a setback for the cause of justice. But I do understand the dangerous precedent involved in these arrests — allowing imperialist governments to decide who exactly is an international criminal.

Yet I wonder: doesn't the *Militant* support the arrest and conviction of the killers of Matthew Shepard? If so, who would try the person arrested but a judge representing a capitalist court? It seems to me that the degree of justice achieved depends on the agitation around an issue before, during, and after a trial — that this is the best guarantor of justice, short of a revolution. This principle seems to make sense, both in domestic and international situations.

Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Pinochet arrest II

Your article on Pinochet in this week's *Militant* states that: "The arrest warrant was issued by Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón, a social democrat who is notorious for pro-

secuting Basque independence fighters. The proceedings against Pinochet were initiated by the Left Unity, a parliamentary group led by the Spanish Communist Party, in Madrid and the Commission of the Disappeared in Chile."

However, this doesn't appear entirely correct. An article in the "Guardian" today [Oct. 23, 1998] indicates that in fact, Garzón was involved in investigating government hit-squads which eliminated Basque independence fighters. Garzón has in the past also been responsible for jailing ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) members.

While the equation which the right-wing liberals make between Pinochet and Castro is totally reprehensible, there is every chance that he will actually be released. Blair has a long record of dancing to the tune of the Baroness and [Margaret] Thatcher has spoken. The fact that her pronunciamiento was given prime spot on the morning news and that the Archbishop of Canterbury called for "forgiveness," indicates that there is strong ruling-class pressure to let the old butcher go home.

Tomorrow there is a picket of the hospital called by Chilean refugees.

I would like to go and argue that Pinochet and his cronies should face justice, but also argue that the very capitalist governments that supported him in 1973 cannot dispense it.

John Laurence
London, England

Need proletarian discipline

Before reading the article, "The struggle for a proletarian party" in the *Militant* of Oct. 19, 1998; I had stapled an article of the former *Militant*, "The coal miners fight for safety" on the union board. One of my co-workers saw me and said: "More newspapers!" What that meant was that the time is right to put the *Militant* and other communist teachings up on the union boards.

As there is an urgent need to build a proletarian-disciplined "fraction of coal miners" for Socialist Workers Party, it's more than ever necessary to build upon coal miners' resistance and fight-backs as is being reported by the *Militant* — and also bringing onto light the case of Roger Warren, a coal miner from Yukon in Canada who has been framed up and is currently serving a long sen-

tence. It's only in this manner that it is possible to gain the trust of the militant miners towards the worker-bolshevik fractions. His life story and his militancy will inspire young workers; and his fight in the prison cell won't go unheard.

If we see that the great opportunities for communist work among working people is more than any other time in the past decades is possible, then we have no right to be at a rally and be short of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and other published materials by Pathfinder. Because if we miss the era and the challenge then we will miss the opportunity to attract young and militant fighters to the perspective of world revolution. And lastly, the Militant Labor Forum has to start exactly on time as we go to work on time. Militant workers who become interested in revolutionary ideas and want to participate and taste the water for becoming a proletarian-disciplined revolutionary love to see their meetings on time.

As someone who has followed and read the *Militant* for two decades, and has truly believed in the general line of this irreplaceable Marxist newspaper I really do ap-

preciate if the ones who proofread the paper be more patient and cautious. Of course you'll understand that this comment is to make my beloved paper more attractive to its readers even from a technical point of view. And as the Cubans say, "Yes, we can do it."

Some of my Spanish-speaking co-workers are already thinking of participating at the December 10 rally in New York to support the cause of the Puerto Ricans for self determination and their independence. I would appreciate if you run something in the *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* so we could post them on the union boards.

Let's get the *Militant* and *New International* and other revolutionary literature out, NOW!
Morteza Gorgazadeh
Downsview, Ontario

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

S. Africa: Truth Commission spells out crimes of the apartheid regime

ANC protests commission's attempt to smear liberation movement

BY T.J. FIGUEROA

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released a 3,500-page report in Pretoria on October 29 detailing many of the atrocities committed under apartheid rule — specifically “gross violations of human rights” that took place from the police massacre of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators at Sharpeville in 1960 up to the first nonracial, democratic elections in 1994.

The report is not final. Thousands of hearings are still to take place in which cops, army officers, soldiers, and others are applying for amnesty for acts they undertook during that period. Under the TRC's guidelines, people who fully disclose their acts can be granted amnesty from prosecution. Out of a total of 7,000 amnesty applications, about 150 amnesties have been granted to date. Two thousand cases have yet to be heard.

The TRC report describes apartheid — the system of racist segregation imposed by the rulers of this country into the 1990s — as a crime against humanity. It says “the state, in the form of the South African government, the civil service and its security forces, was, in the period 1960–94, the primary perpetrator of gross violations of human rights in South Africa and, from 1974, in southern Africa.”

The commission, however, attempts to give its report the veneer of supra-class morality, equating the crimes of the apartheid state with acts carried out by those involved in the struggle to overthrow it. “The vast majority, if not all, of the gross violations of human rights that were perpetrated ... happened at the hands either of those who sought to defend the unjust apartheid and racist dispensation or those who sought to resist and ultimately overthrow that system,” says commission chairperson Desmond Tutu, an Anglican archbishop.

This approach angers many working people who fought apartheid, including those whose friends and relatives died at the hands of the regime.

“Without that struggle, we wouldn't be where we are today. People lost their lives — it was a war. We struggled then and we still have to struggle,” said Ellen Matlakala Morudu, whose son was active in the ANC's military underground in Mamelodi township. He was killed by the police in 1987 and his body dumped in an unknown location.

The report accused the ruling African National Congress, which led the democratic movement, of bombing civilian targets,

a land mine campaign in the mid-1980s, the execution of mutineers in ANC military camps, and the killing of suspected collaborators in townships. The ANC made voluminous submissions to the commission accepting political responsibility for its conduct in the war against apartheid. It also undertook internal disciplinary hearings to deal with cases of torture in its camps in southern Africa. The TRC's findings “show an extraordinary refusal on the part of the commission to locate itself in the context of the ... struggle against apartheid, both within and outside the country,” said an October 30 statement from the ANC. Unable to obtain a hearing to raise these concerns with the commission, it made an unsuccessful 11th hour court bid to block the report's release.

No apologies for revolutionary struggle

“The commission is now over and the ANC is still going to be around to ensure that the glorious chapter of our struggle is not depicted in such a way that future generations should be ashamed of it,” said ANC secretary-general Kgalema Motlanthe. “Since its formation the ANC meticulously tried to avoid loss of life, but we were a revolutionary organization and we are not apologetic about that.”

Former president F.W. de Klerk won a court ruling forcing the TRC to blank out a section in its report accusing him of human rights abuses, though he is implicated in other sections of the document. Among those named as responsible for human rights violations are former president P.W. Botha,



Above, South Africans hold the ANC banner during a protest funeral in the 1980s. Many working people rejected the Truth Commission's attempts to equate acts committed by ANC members with the atrocities conducted by the apartheid regime.

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and former general Constand Viljoen.

An entire chapter is devoted to the conduct of ANC Women's League president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her Mandela United Football Club, which the TRC says functioned as a “private vigilante unit.”

The report covers the military actions of the apartheid regime from 1960 to 1990, a

period during which it sought to maintain racial domination over the whole of southern Africa in general and smash the ANC in particular.

By the 1980s, the report says, the South African Defense Force was involved in various levels of warfare including Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and organizing cross-border raids, hit squads, and coups in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and the Seychelles.

Untold numbers of people were killed in these actions — including 100,000 Angolans estimated to have starved to death as a result of war-bred famine. In the 1978 attack on Kassinga in Angola alone, South African troops slaughtered 624 people, most of them civilians.

Other report findings for the period 1960–1990 include:

More than 2,500 people were hanged to death by the state — 1,154 between 1976 and 1985. Some 95 percent of all people executed were African.

Approximately 80,000 people were jailed without trial.

Torture “was condoned by the South African government as official practice.”

The regime initiated a chemical and biological warfare program in the 1980s and 1990s in which “cholera, botulism, anthrax, chemical poisoning, and the large-scale manufacture of drugs of abuse, allegedly for purposes of crowd control, were amongst the projects of the program.

Moreover, chemicals, poisons, and lethal micro-organisms were produced for use against individuals, and ‘applicators’ (murder weapons) developed for their administration.”

At the hearings on the chemical warfare program, Daan Goosen, who worked on the biological warfare program for the army, said that in 1983 the government began to search for a drug that would be effective against “pigmented people only.”

“Where amnesty has not been sought or has been denied,” the TRC says, “prosecution should be considered.” The report has been forwarded to the Attorney General for action.

Canada: Cuban youth begin speaking tour

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — Two young Cubans are touring across Canada November 1–29, speaking on “Youth and the Cuban Revolution.” They will be speaking at campuses

and community meetings in Montreal, Quebec City, Drummondville, and Three Rivers, Quebec; Ottawa, Toronto, and London, Ontario; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Juan Carlos Frómeta de la Rosa is the coordinator of the Americas section of the International Relations Department of the Union of Young Communists (UJC). Raiza Rodríguez González is a member of the National Secretariat of the Federation of University Students (FEU) and a masters student in sociology at the University of Havana.

Among those who have invited them to speak in Canada are the Canadian Federation of Students; the University Students Federation of Quebec; the College Students Federation of Quebec; Howard Hampton, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party; the Vancouver and District Labor Council; the Southern Ontario Region of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; the Young Socialists; and many others.

Frómeta and Rodríguez are beginning their tour in Montreal with meetings at three university and two college campuses the first week in November.

They will also address the Montreal Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and meet with a group of garment workers who are members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. They will return to Montreal for a public citywide meeting November 27.

After Montreal, the two will go to Quebec City for a public meeting and then to Drummondville where they will speak at a college and a high school as well as visiting a farm.

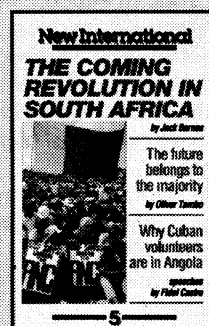
The Cuban youth leaders will be in Toronto November 11–15. During that time they will address a public meeting at the University of Toronto, participate in a reception at the Native Youth Center, meet members of United Steelworkers of America Local 5338, and speak on two other campuses. On November 16 they are invited to London, Ontario, to speak to members of the Canadian Auto Workers and at a public meeting.

Their visit to Vancouver will include three campus meetings, a citywide meeting, and a presentation to the Vancouver and District Labor Council. In addition, Frómeta and Rodríguez will attend the annual meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students in Ottawa and of the University Students Federation of Quebec in Montreal.

Those who wish more information on the tour can call (514) 938-1480.

Joe Young is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

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Jack Barnes

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